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AND

LITERARY JOURNAL.

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ART. I. *The Medical Repository, and Review of American Publications on Medicine, Surgery, and the Auxiliary Branches of Philosophy. Conducted by* Samuel L. Mitchill, *M. D. F. R. S. E. Professor of Chemistry, Natural History and Agriculture in Columbia College, Representative in Congress for the City of New-York, one of the Physicians of the General Hospital, &c. and* Edward Miller, *M. D. Vol.* iv. 8vo. pp. 432. *New-York.* T. & J. Swords. 1801.

IN opening this volume, with a view to lay some account of it before our readers, one of the first objects which attracted our attention was an enlargement of the *title* of the work. We do not observe that this is accompanied with any additional department of contents; but the title-page, as it now stands, is undoubtedly more suited to the extensive and liberal plan of the publication than formerly.

The present volume contains the following papers on pestilential diseases:

1. *An Account of a Malignant Disease which appeared on board of the United States Frigate General Greene: In a Letter from Dr. L. Kollock, of Savannah, in Georgia, to Dr. Miller.*
2. *A brief Account of the Situation and Diseases of Campeachy-Town, on the Isthmus of Darien; shewing the Efficacy of Calcareous Earth (Carbonate of Lime) in overcoming the Exciting Cause of Fevers: From a Communication of Mr. Richard V. W. Thorne to Dr. Mitchill.*
3. *Observations on Yellow Fever, by Dr. Felix Pascalis, of Philadelphia.*
4. *Facts relative to the Black-Vomit, Dysentery, &c. as they occurred in Mifflin County, Pennsylvania, during the hot Weather of* 1797, 1798, *and* 1799, *and to the Efficacy of Strata of Cal-*

careous Earth (Carbonate of Lime) in counteracting the Exciting Cause of those Distempers: From a Letter of Dr. William Harris to Dr. Mitchill.

5. *Facts concerning the Yellow Fever, as it appears at Charleston (South-Carolina): Communicated in a Letter from the Hon. David Ramsay, M. D. to Dr. Miller.*
6. *Account of the Yellow-Fever which originated on board the United Ship General Greene: By Dr. Edmund Thomas Waring, in a Letter to the Editors of the Medical Repository.*
7. *An Account of the Epidemic Disease which appeared in the City of New-York in the Summer and Autumn of* 1800: *Communicated by Valentine Seaman, M. D. to Dr. Miller.*
8. *On the Yellow Fever, as it appeared at Baltimore (State of Maryland) in the Summer and Autumn of* 1800: *Communicated by Dr. Chatard, of that City, in a Letter to Dr. Miller.*
9. *On the Efficacy of the Volatile Alkali to overcome Pestilential Fluids; showing the Wholesomeness of burning Fossil Coal in Cities: In a Letter from Dr. Mitchill to William Blair, Esq. Surgeon of the Lock-Hospital in London, &c.*
10. *On the Yellow Fever at Norfolk (Virginia), in the Summer and Autumn of* 1800: *Communicated by Drs. Selden and Whitehead to Dr. Miller.*
11. *On the Connection of Earthquakes with Epidemic Diseasss, and on the Succession of Epidemics: Communicated in a Letter from Noah Webster, jun. Esq. to Dr. Miller.*
12. *Opinion of the Medical Faculty, addressed to James Calhoun, Esq. Mayor of the City of Baltimore, relative to the Domestic Origin of the Pestilential Sickness in that City during the hot Season of* 1800: *Communicated by Dr. Daniel Mookes to Dr. Mitchill.*

It is remarkable that all the above papers, coming from different sources, and from different parts of the continent in which yellow fever has prevailed, without exception, agree in representing it as a disease of *domestic* origin. Those drawn up by Dr. Kollock, by Dr. Harris, by Dr. Ramsay, and by Drs. Selden and Whitehead, are especially valuable in this view, and exhibit facts and reasonings on the subject, which, we believe, the advocates of *importation* will find it difficult to repel.

Those papers, in the present volume, which relate to different subjects in *Medicine* and *Surgery*, are the following:

1. *On the Phenomena, Causes and Treatment of Sea-Sickness: By Edward Miller, M. D.*
2. *On the Efficacy of the Digitalis Purpurea in allaying excessive Action of the Sanguiferous System: Communicated to Dr. Mitchill by James S. Stringham, M. D. of New-York.*

3. *An Account of a Dissection, with Remarks thereon: By George Lee, A. M. addressed to Professor Mitchill.*
4. *A Sketch of the History of the Diseases of the State of Delaware: Communicated in a Letter from Dr. John Vaughan, of Wilmington, to Dr. Miller.*
5. *Arrangement of Facts concerning Ulcers, Sores and Tetters; showing how agreeably these and similar Affections of the Skin are healed, in many Cases, by Alkaline Applications: In a Letter to Thomas Trotter, M. D. Physician to the British Fleet, &c.*
6. *On the Importance of saving Skin in Chirurgical Cases and Operations: Addressed to the Editors of the Medical Repository, by Richard Hillier, Surgeon.*
7. *Extraordinary Case of a Man who appeared to have three Testicles: Communicated by Dr. Samuel Brown, of Lexington (Kentucky), to Dr. Miller.*
8. *Curious Instance of Disease, in which, though Feeling was abolished, the Power of Motion was unimpaired: From the same to the same.*
9. *An Account of Diseases at Wilmington (Delaware), in the Summer and Autumn of* 1800; *of the Disease originating on board of the United States Ship Ganges; and of a Disease arising from the Effluvia of Human Excrements at Narbonne, in France: Communicated by Dr. John Vaughan, of Wilmington, to Dr. Miller.*
10. *Conjectures concerning the Action of the Contagion of Small-Pox, and of other Diseases which only once attack the Human Body: Addressed to the Editors of the Medical Repository by an Anonymous Correspondent.*
11. *Case of Tetanus, from a punctured Wound in the Heel, cured by the Tincture of Cantharides: Communicated in a Letter from Dr. Samuel Brown, of Lexington (Kentucky), to Dr. Mitchill.*
12. *Case of Alkohol administered to a Man after having taken an immoderate Dose of Opium: Communicated to Dr. Mitchill by Mr. Shephard.*
13. *Experiments and Observations on Mercury: In a Letter addressed to Professor Hosack, by George Lee, A. M.*
14. *An Account of remarkable Effects from the Application of the Actual Cautery to the Nape of the Neck and the Top of the Head, in several Diseases, both Idiopathic and Symptomatic, of the Eyes, Ears and Brain: By Louis Valentin, M. D. formerly Professor of Anatomy in Cape-François, &c. &c. now of Nancy, in Lorraine: Communicated to Dr. Mitchill.*

These communications are all valuable; several of them eminently so. We are pleased to see physicians, in the most distant parts of the United States, contributing their observations, and the results of their practice, to the pages of this na-

tional work. It augurs well, both with respect to the continuance and character of the work itself, and the scientific taste and zeal of our medical countrymen.

The *chemical* department of the present volume is, as usual, large and interesting. It consists of the following communications:

1. *An Answer to Dr. Joseph Priestley's Arguments against the Antiphlogistic System of Chemistry, published in the Medical Repository, and a Vindication of the Principles contained in the 72d Essay of the fourth Volume of the American Philosophical Transactions: By James Woodhouse, M. D. Professor of Chemistry in the University of Pennsylvania, &c.*
2. *Observations on certain Objections of Dr. Joseph Priestley to the Antiphlogistic System of Chemistry: By the same.*
3. *Experiments on heating Manganese in Inflammable Air: In a Letter from the Rev. Dr. Priestley to Dr. Mitchill.*
4. *Remarks on the Combination of Azote and Oxygen: By P. Blanchet.*

Every chemist is acquainted with the controversy which has been so long and so ably maintained between Dr. Priestley and the disciples of the new or *antiphlogistic* theory. Of the latter system of doctrines Dr. Woodhouse, as we have before had occasion to observe, is an advocate. In the above-mentioned papers from his pen, he enters fully into the controversy, and exhibits reasonings and experiments which will, we presume, inspire most readers with a respectful opinion of his zeal, learning and talents.

Dr. Priestley's *Experiments on heating Manganese in Inflammable Air*, are exhibited as a part of that series of facts on which he founds his opposition to the antiphlogistic theory. He thinks these experiments authorize the same general conclusion with those which he had before made on heating red precipitate in inflammable air.

Mr. Blanchet, in his *Remarks*, &c. offers some objections to Professor Mitchill's opinion respecting the combination of azote and oxygen.

That part of the present volume which is devoted to inquiries in *Natural History*, consists of the following communications:

1. *Experiments on the Production of Air by the freezing of Water: By Joseph Priestley, LL.D. F.R.S. &c. &c.*
2. *Observations on the Hair-Worm (Gordius Aquaticus Lin.?): By Mr. George Chilton, Teacher of Geography, Astronomy, &c. in New-York: In a Letter to Dr. Mitchill.*
3. *Remarks on a Subterranean Wall in North-Carolina: By the Rev. Zechariah Lewis, of the State of Connecticut.*

4. *Some Observations relating to the Sense of Hearing: Addressed to the Editors of the Medical Repository, by the Rev. Dr. Priestley.*
5. *Facts concerning the Noxiousness of Rain-Water and Dew in 1797: Communicated in a Letter from Dr. Foot to Dr. Miller.*
6. *Luminous Appearance of Ocean-Water caused by Animals: In a Letter from Professor Mitchill, of New-York, to Professor Barton, of Philadelphia.*

Dr. Priestley's *Experiments on the freezing of Water* are curious. They form a kind of *supplement* to a course of experiments formerly published on the same subject.

The Rev. Mr. Lewis's *Remarks on a Subterranean Wall in North-Carolina* will attract the attention of the inquisitive and philosophic inquirer. This gentleman, who personally examined the *wall*, expresses a decided opinion that it is a production of *art*. This is in opposition to the opinion of Dr. Woodhouse, delivered in a preceding volume of the work under review. We hope that farther examination will enable the ingenious naturalists of our country to settle this controversy in a satisfactory manner. The question is not only a curious one, but is also, in some points of view, important.

Professor Mitchill's *Inquiries respecting the Luminous Appearance of Ocean-Water*, are interesting and instructive. They furnish additional proof of the well-known learning, accuracy of observation, and ingenuity of the author.

The other three papers, by Dr. Priestley, Dr. Foot, and Mr. Chilton, though of less value, will be read with pleasure by the natural historian.

In the present volume we meet with an article to which we are at a loss to assign a place under any of the departments of *Medicine*, or the *auxiliary* branches of philosophy, which the editors profess to embrace in their plan. But although the introduction of this article into the *Medical Repository* has somewhat of a ludicrous aspect, yet we presume that such of our readers as are fond of *biblical* inquiries, will pardon our presenting it entire in this place.

" *An Account of a* HEBREW *MANUSCRIPT COPY of the* JEWISH *SCRIPTURES, now in New-York: In a Letter from Mr.* SOLOMON *SIMSON, the Proprietor, to Dr.* MITCHILL, *dated March* 26, 1800.

" SIR,

" The old Manuscript Bible in my possession, of which you have desired some information, was brought from Turkey to England by a gentleman who left his library to a relation of his in this country, and from the latter my aged father purchased it, with some other books. It is written in a character some-

thing resembling Rosha, or rather, it is to be presumed that Rosha borrowed or copied his from it. It is very different from the square character we have in use, and is about the size of a large octavo, written in two columns, on parchment, or vellum, as fine as silk. The songs of Moses, Deborah, and David, are poetical, written with the greatest uniformity and neatness, with black, shining ink. It is also accompanied with marginal notes, written so fine and small that it requires good eyes, or glasses, to distinguish them. The Psalms appear to be a most masterly performance, and the diversity of the measure seems pleasingly to strike the eye, even of those who are unacquainted with the language, and is supposed to be the original poetry in which they were written by David, &c. There appears a great play of words and letters; some of the Psalms beginning with the alphabet, and in order going through the same, with many variations. The 119th Psalm is written in two columns, of four lines each, each eight verses beginning with the *aleph*, the next eight with the *beth*, and proceeding through the alphabet in that order, which is probably the reason of its being marked, in our English Bible, with *aleph*, *beth*, &c.

"The two first chapters, and part of the last, in the book of Job, are written in prose, in two columns. The other part of the book is in short Hemistich verse, beautifully written, and the whole handsomely pointed. The accents appear to be the same as in our printed books, except the ten commandments, which are only with single accents.

"In Joshua, chap. xxi. between the verses 35 and 36, two verses are inserted, with the names of four cities of refuge, of the tribe of Reuben, &c. which are not in our Hebrew or English Bibles: and Everardo Van der Hooght, in his edition, printed in Amsterdam, in 1705, mentions, in his preface, that these two verses are only to be found in three old, corrected manuscript books, but which he supposes to be an error. The order of the books in the manuscript is as follows:

"The Law, in five books.

"Joshua, Judges, and Samuel, each in one.

"Kings in one, without any division.

"Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi, Ruth, Psalms, Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs, Lamentations, Daniel, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, and Chronicles, each in one.

"The late Myles Cooper, LL. D. President of King's College, delivered my father, Joseph Simson, the following letter, with the book therein mentioned.

'Sir,

'I have been informed by Dr. Cooper, that you benevolently

intend to lend me your curious Hebrew M.S. and when you have so done, I shall celebrate, in the most grateful manner, your public spirit and generosity. I will take the utmost care of it, and it shall be returned, in twelve months, to the person in London you appoint to receive it; and for this I will give a note of hand, or (if you require it) a bond of obligation. You will receive of Dr. Cooper the present of a book of mine, in which I have published your kind intention; and I hope you will accept that book as a mark of the gratitude of, Sir,

'Your highly obliged, and

'Very obedient servant,

'B. KENNICOTT.

'*Oxford, March* 4, 1770.'

"In May following my father received the following note:

'Mr. Cooper's compliments to Mr. Simson, returns him Dr. Kennicott's letter, which he did not send for yesterday, but only for his own, and hopes that Mr. Simson's determination on the point in question, viz. the transmission of the M.S. to England, is favourable to the grand scheme of collation, which the learned gentleman has now in hand.

'*King's College, May* 8, 1770.'

"The June following the manuscript was delivered to Dr. Cooper, with the following letter:

'SIR,

'In obedience to my father's commands, which gives me particular pleasure, I now answer your esteemed letter, by the hands of Mr. President Cooper; and though the M.S. is highly valued, it is cheerfully lent to promote the great work you have undertaken. The President has engaged to return it safe in one year. Permit me to mention, that in the book you have favoured my father with, instead of his name (Joseph), mine has been inserted, which, no doubt, will be rectified. My good father commands his respects and best wishes with mine: that you may be blest with health to go through the arduous work you have in hand—that it may be completed with the strictest regard to truth, to your honour, and the good of mankind.

'I am, with due respect, Reverend Sir,

'Your most obedient, humble servant,

'SAMPSON SIMSON.

'*Rev. B. KENNICOTT.*'

"In 1772 Dr. Cooper returned the M.S. with the following letter:

'SIR,

'I beg you to accept of my best thanks for the use of your valuable Hebrew M.S. which I am very glad of returning to

you so safely as by the hands of Dr. Cooper. I shall take care publicly to express my gratitude* for this act of your kindness.

'And am, Sir,

'Your highly obliged, and

'Obedient servant,

'B. KENNICOTT.

'*Oxford, May* 11, 1772.'

"There does not appear any certainty when this Hebrew M. S. was written. Gentlemen, learned in the Hebrew language, have differed greatly in their opinion—from 700 to 1700 years ago. Some have gone so far as to suppose it to have been written by Ezra the scribe: but all agree that it is a valuable as well as a very ancient manuscript.

"I am, Sir,

"With due respect,

"Your most humble servant,

"SOLOMON SIMSON."

In this volume the following publications are *reviewed*; viz.

1. *A Memoir concerning the Disease of Goitre, as it prevails in the different Parts of North-America. By Benjamin Smith Barton, M. D. Professor of Materia Medica, Natural History and Botany, in the University of Pennsylvania, and one of the Physicians of the Pennsylvania Hospital.*
2. *A Treatise on the Plague and Yellow Fever; with an Appendix, containing Histories of the Plague at Athens, &c. By James Tytler, Compiler of the Medical Part of the Encyclopædia Britannica.*
3. *Transactions of the Society, instituted in the State of New-York, for the Promotion of Agriculture, Arts and Manufactures, Part 4.*
4. *A Treatise on the Nature, Origin and Progress of the Yellow Fever, with Observations on its Treatment; comprizing an Account of the Disease in several of the Capitals of the United States; but more particularly as it has prevailed in Boston: By Samuel Brown, M. B. Boston.*
5. *Transactions of the American Philosophical Society, held at Philadelphia, for promoting useful Knowledge. Vol* iv.
6. *Memoir on the Analysis of the Black-vomit, ejected in the last Stage of the Yellow-Fever: By Isaac Cathrall.*
7. *Recherches sur la Medecine, ou l' Application de la Chimie a la Medecine: Par François Blanchet.*

* "Mr. Simson's manuscript is mentioned in the second volume of Kennicott's Bible in folio, of which there is a copy in the library of Columbia College. In the catalogue of the seven hundred which he consulted, this is the 144th, and is distinguished by the words, "AMERIC. NEO-EBOR." It is conjectured, by him, to have been written between the years 1300 and 1400 of the christian era."

8. *A Prospect of exterminating the Small-Pox: being the History of the Variolæ Vaccinæ, or Kine-Pox, commonly called the Cow-Pox, as it has appeared in England; with an Account of a Series of Inoculations performed for the Kine-Pox in Massachusetts: By Benjamin Waterhouse, M. D. Fellow of the American Philosophical Society, Academy of Arts and Sciences, &c. &c.*

9. *The Magnetic Atlas, or Variation Charts of the whole Terraqueous Globe; comprehending a System of the Variation and Dip of the Needle, by which, the Observations being truly made, the Longitude may be ascertained. Third Edition, with Additions. By John Churchman, Member of the Russian Imperial Academy.*

10. *A New Physical System of Astronomy; or, an Attempt to explain the Operations of the Powers which impel the Planets and Comets to perform Elliptical Revolutions round the Sun, and revolve on their own Axis: in which the Physical System of Sir Isaac Newton is examined, and presumed to be refuted. To which is annexed, a Physiological Treatise; in which the first Stage of Animation is considered, and the Means shown by which Circulation is performed in the first Rudiments of the incipient Animal, before the Vessels are completely organized, &c. together with an Explanation of the General Laws by which the Animal Economy is governed; and particularly the Mode whereby the Operations of the* Vis Medicatrix Naturæ, *or the unassisted Powers of Nature, are exerted to obviate and cure Disease. Also, successful Methods of curing Cancerous Ulcers, the Quartan Ague, Putrid Fevers, stopping Mortifications, and extracting Frost, so as to leave the frozen Member perfectly well. By Joseph Young, M. D. of New-York.*

11. *Observations on the Influence of the Moon on Climate and the Animal Economy; with a proper Method of treating Diseases when under the Power of that Luminary.*

12. *The Valedictory Lecture delivered before the Philosophical Society of Delaware. By Dr. John Vaughan, Member of the said Society, &c. &c.*

13. *Six Chemical Essays, by Joseph Priestley, L.L. D. &c. Read at several Meetings of the American Philosophical Society.*

14. *A Review of the Improvements, Progress, and State of Medicine in the 18th Century. Read on the first Day of the 19th Century, before the Medical Society of South-Carolina, in pursuance of their Vote, and published at their Request. By David Ramsay, M. D.*

15. *An Address to the Philadelphia Medical Society, on the Analogies between Yellow Fever and True Plague. Delivered, by Appointment, on the 20th of Feb. 1801. By Charles Caldwell, M. D.*

The departments of *News* and *Appendix*, in the present volume, are large and interesting, especially the former. Under the head of *News*, however, we cannot help thinking that

some articles have a place here which would appear with much more propriety in a work devoted to the *arts* and *general literature.*

We are pleased to find in this work, as it progresses, indications that the correspondence of the editors is becoming more extensive and various. From almost every State in the union, contributions of various kinds appear in the present volume. The prospect which this fact affords of the literary and scientific improvement of our country, must be highly gratifying to every American.

ART. II. *The Works of the Rev.* John Witherspoon, *D. D. LL. D. &c. &c.*

[Continued from page 427, vol. i. and concluded.]

THERE only remains the fourth and last volume of this important publication to be presented to the notice of our readers. This volume is made up of the following parts:

1. *Lectures on Divinity.*

These *Lectures* were never before published, and were evidently not designed by the author for the press. Like those on *eloquence*, before mentioned, they are rather imperfect outlines than full and finished discourses. Still they are worthy of attention, and discover that clear and strong thinking for which Dr. Witherspoon was so remarkable. The system of doctrines for which he here appears an advocate, is that which is usually denominated *Calvinistic.* At the same time he thinks for himself, and distinguishes between the different grades and friends of Calvinism with great accuracy. This part of the volume occupies 123 pages.

2. *Speech in the Synod of Glasgow, when accused of being the Author of the* Ecclesiastical Characteristics.

This is an able speech; without the affectation of ornament, it contains much solid reasoning, dignified appeal, cutting sarcasm, and an exhibition of various reading. It now appears for the first time from the press. It fills 22 pages.

3. *The Druid, published in Numbers of a Periodical Publication,* 1781.

The papers under this title are seven in number. They relate to miscellaneous subjects, particularly politics, morals, education and philology. They indicate good sense and taste.

Those which relate to vulgarisms and inaccuracies in the writers and speakers of the English language, are most valuable. The following remarks, which constitute No. 5, may, perhaps, amuse the reader:

"A man is not, even at this time, called or considered as a scholar, unless he is acquainted in some degree with the ancient languages, particularly the Greek and Latin. About 150 years ago, however, those languages were better understood than they are at present; because, at that time, authors of reputation published almost all their works in Latin. Since the period above mentioned, the modern, or as they are sometimes called, the northern languages have been gradually polished, and each nation has manifested a zeal for, and attention to the purity and perfection of its own tongue. This has been the case, particularly with respect to the French and English. The French language is, as nearly as I can guess, about fifty years before the English, in this respect; that is to say, it is so much longer since their men of letters applied themselves to the ascertaining, correcting and polishing of it. The English, however, has received great improvements within the last hundred years, and probably will continue to do so. He must have little judgment, or great obstinacy, who does not confess that some late authors have written the English language with greater purity than those of the first character in former times. From this we may certainly infer, that the education must be very imperfect in any seminary where no care is taken to form the scholars to taste, propriety and accuracy, in that language which they must speak and write all their life afterwards.

"To these reflections it may be added, that our situation in America is now, and in all probability will continue to be such, as to require peculiar attention upon this subject. The English language is spoken through all the United States. We are at a great distance from the island of Great-Britain, in which the standard of the language is as yet supposed to be found. Every state is equal to and independent of every other; and, I believe, none of them will agree, at least immediately, to receive laws from another in discourse, any more than in action. Time and accident must determine what turn affairs will take in this respect in future, whether we shall continue to consider the language of Great-Britain as the pattern upon which we are to form ours; or whether, in this new empire, some centre of learning and politeness will not be found, which shall obtain influence, and prescribe the rules of speech and writing to every other part.

"While this point is yet unsettled, it has occurred to me to make some observations upon the present state of the English

language in America, and to attempt a collection of some of the chief improprieties which prevail and might be easily corrected. I will premise one or two general remarks. The vulgar in America speak much better than the vulgar in Great-Britain, for a very obvious reason, viz. that being much more unsettled, and moving frequently from place to place, they are not so liable to local peculiarities either in accent or phraseology. There is a greater difference in dialect between one county and another in Britain, than there is between one state and another in America. I shall also admit, though with some hesitation, that gentlemen and scholars in Great-Britain speak as much with the vulgar in common chit chat, as persons of the same class do in America: but there is a remarkable difference in their public and solemn discourses. I have heard in this country, in the senate, at the bar, and from the pulpit, and see daily in dissertations from the press, errors in grammar, improprieties and vulgarisms, which hardly any person of the same class in point of rank and literature would have fallen into in Great-Britain. Curiosity led me to make a collection of these, which, as soon as it became large, convinced me that they were of very different kinds, and therefore must be reduced to a considerable number of classes, in order to their being treated with critical justice. These I now present to the public under the following heads, to each of which I will subjoin a short explication, and a number of examples, with remarks where they seem necessary.

"1. Americanisms, or ways of speaking peculiar to this country.

"2. Vulgarisms in England and America.

"3. Vulgarisms in America only.

"4. Local phrases or terms.

"5. Common blunders arising from ignorance.

"6. Cant phrases.

"7. Personal blunders.

"8. Technical terms introduced into the language.

"It will be proper to put the reader in mind, that he ought not to expect that the enumeration under each of these heads can be complete. This would have required a very long course of observation; and indeed is not necessary to my purpose, which is by specimens to enable every attentive and judicious person to make observations for himself.

"1. The first class I call Americanisms, by which I understand an use of phrases or terms, or a construction of sentences, even among persons of rank and education, different from the use of the same terms or phrases, or the construction of similar sentences in Great-Britain. It does not follow, from a man's using these, that he is ignorant, or his discourse upon the whole inelegant; nay, it does not follow in every case, that the terms

or phrases used are worse in themselves, but merely that they are of American and not of English growth. The word Americanism, which I have coined for the purpose, is exactly similar in its formation and signification to the word Scotticism. By the word Scotticism is understood any term or phrase, and indeed any thing either in construction, pronunciation, or accentuation, that is peculiar to North-Britain. There are many instances in which the Scotch way is as good, and some in which every person who has the least taste as to the propriety or purity of language in general, must confess that it is better than that of England, yet speakers and writers must conform to custom.

"Scotland, or the northern part of Great-Britain, was once a separate, independent kingdom, though, except in the Highlands, the people spoke the same language as in England; the inhabitants of the Lowlands, in both countries, have been originally the same. It is justly observed by Dr. Robertson, in his history of Scotland, that had they continued separate kingdoms, so that there should have been a court and parliament at Edinburgh, to serve as a standard, the small differences in dialect and even in pronunciation, would not have been considered as defects, and there would have been no more opprobrium attending the use of them in speech or writing, than there was in the use of the different dialects of the ancient Grecian republics. But by the removal of the court to London, and especially by the union of the two kingdoms, the Scottish manner of speaking came to be considered as provincial barbarism; which, therefore, all scholars are now at the utmost pains to avoid. It is very probable that the reverse of this, or rather its counterpart, will happen in America. Being entirely separated from Britain, we shall find some centre or standard of our own, and not be subject to the inhabitants of that island, either in receiving new ways of speaking or rejecting the old.

"The examples follow.

"1. 'The United States, or *either* of them.' This is so far from being a mark of ignorance, that it is used by many of the most able and accurate speakers and writers, yet it is not English. The United States are thirteen in number, but in English either does not signify one of many, but *one or the other* of two. I imagine *either* has become an adjective pronoun, by being a sort of abbreviation of a sentence where it is used adverbially, *either the one or the other*. It is exactly the same with εκατερος in Greek, and *alteruter* in Latin.

"2. This is to *notify* the public; or the people had not been *notified*. By this is meant *inform* and *informed*. In English we do not notify the person of the thing, but notify the thing to the person. In this instance there is certainly an impropriety, for *to notify* is just saying by a word of Latin derivation, *to make*

known. Now if you cannot say this is to make the public known, neither ought you to say this is to notify the public.

"3. *Fellow countrymen.* This is a word of very frequent use in America. It has been heard in public orations from men of the first character, and may be daily seen in newspaper publications. It is an evident tautology, for the last word expresses fully the meaning of both. If you open any dictionary, you will find the word countryman signifies one born in the same country. You may say fellow citizens, fellow soldiers, fellow subjects, fellow christians, but not *fellow countrymen.*

"4. These things were ordered delivered to the army. The words *to be* are omitted. I am not certain whether this is a local expression or general in America.

"5. I wish we could contrive it to Philadelphia. The words *to carry it, to have it carried,* or some such, are wanting. It is a defective construction, of which there are but too many that have already obtained in practice, in spite of all the remonstrances of men of letters.

"6. We may *hope* the assistance of God. The word *for* or *to receive* is wanting. In this instance hope, which is a neuter verb, is turned into an active verb, and not very properly as to the objective term assistance. It must be admitted, however, that in some old English poets, hope is sometimes used as an active verb, but it is contrary to modern practice.

"7. I do not consider myself equal to this task. The word *as* is wanting. I am not certain whether this may not be an English vulgarism, for it is frequently used by the renowned author of Common Sense, who is an Englishman born; but he has so happy a talent of adopting the blunders of others, that nothing decisive can be inferred from his practice. It is, however, undoubtedly an Americanism, for it is used by authors greatly superior to him in every respect.

"8. Neither to-day *or* to-morrow. The proper construction is, either the one or the other, neither the one *nor* the other.

"9. A *certain* Thomas Benson. The word certain, as used in English, is an indefinite; the name fixes it precisely, so that there is a kind of contradiction in the expression. In England they would say, a certain person called or supposed to be Thomas Benson.

10. "Such bodies are *incident* to these evils. The evil is incident or ready to fall upon the person, the person liable or subject to the evil.

"11. He is a very *clever* man. She is quite a *clever* woman. How often are these phrases to be heard in conversation? Their meaning, however, would certainly be mistaken when heard for the first time by one born in Britain. In these cases, Americans generally mean by *clever,* only goodness of disposition,

worthiness, integrity, without the least regard to capacity; nay, if I am not mistaken, it is frequently applied, where there is an acknowledged simplicity or mediocrity of capacity. But in Britain, clever always means capacity, and may be joined either to a good or bad disposition. We say of a man, he is a clever man, a clever tradesman, a clever fellow, without any reflection upon his moral character, yet at the same time it carries no approbation of it. It is exceeding good English, and very common to say, He is a clever fellow, but I am sorry to say it, he is also a great rogue. When cleverness is applied primarily to conduct, and not to the person, it generally carries in it the idea of art or chicanery, not very honourable; for example—Such a plan I confess was very clever, i. e. sly, artful, well-contrived, but not very fair.

"12. I was quite mad at him, he made me quite mad. In this instance mad is only a metaphor for angry. This is perhaps an English vulgarism, but it is not found in any accurate writer, nor used by any good speaker, unless when poets or orators use it as a strong figure, and to heighten the expression, say he was mad with rage.

"These shall suffice for the first class."

Some of the modes of expression above-mentioned are wholly new to us, and are rather *provincialisms* than *Americanisms.* Others, we believe, are common to the inhabitants of Great-Britain and America.

4. *Observations on the Improvement of America.*
5. *Reflections on Public Affairs.*
6. *On the Controversy respecting Independence.*
7. *On conducting the American Controversy.*
8. *Thoughts on American Liberty.*
9. *Memorial and Manifesto of the United States.*

All the above papers were written during the American war, and relate to that period of our history. Though they are sensible, and discover the talents of the author, they contain nothing that would be considered new, or particularly interesting, at the present time.

10. *Remarks on a Clause in the Constitution of Georgia.*

The clause in the constitution of Georgia to which Dr. W. refers in these remarks, is that which excludes the clergy from civil office. As an article of the same kind has been introduced into several of our State constitutions, and into that of New-York among the rest, it may not be improper to give entire what our author says on the subject.

"In your paper of Saturday last, you have given us the new Constitution of Georgia, in which I find the following resolu-

tion: "No clergyman of any denomination shall be a member of the General Assembly." I would be very well satisfied that some of the gentlemen who have made that an essential article of this constitution, or who have inserted and approve it in other constitutions, would be pleased to explain a little the principles, as well as to ascertain the meaning of it.

"Perhaps we understand pretty generally, what is meant by a clergyman, viz. a person regularly called and set apart to the ministry of the gospel, and authorised to preach and administer the sacraments of the christian religion. Now suffer me to ask this question; Before any man among us was ordained a minister, was he not a citizen of the United States, and if being in Georgia, a citizen of the State of Georgia? Had he not then a right to be elected a member of the Assembly, if qualified in point of property? How then has he lost, or why is he deprived of this right? Is it by offence or disqualification? Is it a sin against the public to become a minister? Does it merit that the person who is guilty of it should be immediately deprived of one of the most important rights as a citizen? Is not this inflicting a penalty, which always supposes an offence? Is a minister then disqualified for the office of a senator or representative? Does this calling and profession render him stupid or ignorant? I am inclined to form a very high opinion of the natural understanding of the freemen and freeholders of the State of Georgia, as well as of their improvement and culture by education, and yet I am not able to conceive, but that some of those equally qualified, may enter into the clerical order: and then it must not be unfitness, but some other reason that produces the exclusion. Perhaps it may be thought that they are excluded from civil authority, that they may be more fully and constantly employed in their spiritual functions. If this had been the ground of it, how much more properly would it have appeared, as an order of an ecclesiastical body, with respect to their own members? In that case I should not only have forgiven, but approved and justified it; but in the way in which it now stands, it is evidently a punishment by loss of privilege, inflicted on those who go into the office of the ministry; for which, perhaps, the gentlemen of Georgia may have good reasons, though I have not been able to discover them.

"But besides the uncertainty of the principle on which this resolution is founded, there seems to me much uncertainty as to the meaning of it. How are we to determine who is or is not a clergyman? Is he only a clergyman who has received ordination from those who have derived the right by an uninterrupted succession from the apostles? Or is he also a clergyman, who is set apart by the imposition of hands of a body of other clergymen, by joint authority? Or is he also a clergyman, who

is set apart by the church members of his own society, without any imposition of hands at all? Or is he also a clergyman, who has exhorted in a methodist society, or spoken in a quaker meeting, or any other religious assembly met for public worship? There are still greater difficulties behind:—Is the clerical character indelible? There are some who have been ordained, who occasionally perform some clerical functions, but have no pastoral charge at all. There are some who finding public speaking injurious to health, or from other reasons easily conceived, have resigned their pastoral charge, and wholly discontinued all acts and exercises of that kind; and there are some, particularly in New-England, who having exercised the clerical office some time, and finding it less suitable to their talents than they apprehended, have voluntarily relinquished it, and taken to some other profession, as law, physic, or merchandize—Do these all continue clergymen, or do they cease to be clergymen, and by that cessation return to, or recover the honourable privileges of laymen?

"I cannot help thinking that these difficulties are very considerable, and may occasion much litigation if the article of the constitution stands in the loose, ambiguous form in which it now appears; and therefore I would recommend the following alterations, which I think will make every thing definite and unexceptionable.

'No clergyman, of any denomination, shall be capable of being elected a member of the Senate or House of Representatives, because [here insert the grounds of offensive disqualification, which I have not been able to discover]. Provided always, and it is the true intent and meaning of this part of the constitution, that if at any time he shall be completely deprived of the clerical character by those by whom he was invested with it, as by deposition for cursing and swearing, drunkenness or uncleanness, he shall then be fully restored to all the privileges of a free citizen; his offence shall no more be remembered against him; but he may be chosen either to the Senate or House of Representatives, and shall be treated with all the respect due to his *brethren*, the other members of Assembly.'

11. *On the Federal City.*
12. *Speech in Congress on the Interest of Loan-Office Certificates.*
13. *Speech in Congress on the Conference proposed by Lord Howe.*
14. *Speech in Congress on the Confederation.*
15. *Speech in Congress on the Finances.*
16. *Speech on the Appointment of Plenipotentiaries.*
17. *Speech on the Convention with Gen. Burgoyne.*
18. *Letter on the proposed Market in Camp.*
19. *Address to Gen. Washington.*
20. *Letter sent to Scotland for the Scots Magazine.*

21. *Ignorance of the British with respect to America.*
22. *On the Contest between Great-Britain and America.*
23. *Aristides, a Paper on Common Sense, and its Answerers.*
24. *On the Affairs of the United States.*

These speeches, and other papers, chiefly relate to American *affairs during the revolutionary war.*

25. *A Description of the State of New-Jersey, being Answers, in Part, to the Questions of M. Marbois respecting that State.*

This is a short account, comprized in ten pages, of New-Jersey, considered in a geographical, civil, moral, and literary view.

26. *Supplication to the Elders of the Church of Scotland.*
27. *On the Transportation of Dr. C——.*

The former of these articles relates to some points of controversy in the Church of Scotland. The latter is a speech delivered in the General Assembly of that Church, on a question which arose respecting the translation of a minister from one congregation to another. The word used in Scotland to express this fact is *transportation.*

28. *Address in behalf of the College of New-Jersey.*

This address was particularly intended to solicit the attention and the patronage of the inhabitants of *Jamaica*, and other *West-India islands*, to the college of which Dr. W. was President.

29. *Supplication of J. R——.*

This is a humorous and satirical paper, in the form of a petition to Congress, directed against a certain printer and bookseller who took part with the British, and resided in New-York during the American war.

The following remarks of the editor, at the close of his preface, may, with propriety, conclude the present article.

"He has to regret that a number of the speeches, and some of the essays and letters, are unfinished. In his opinion, however, the parts which are given are so valuable, that they ought not to be lost because the whole could not be obtained. Sometimes they cast light on the transactions of Congress, or on the history of the revolutionary war of our country: sometimes they serve to exhibit the peculiar character and turn of the author, or to make known some circumstances of his life, which his friends may wish to know; and sometimes they contain a few ponderous or splendid thoughts, which, like fragments of golden ore, are precious though they are found unconnected with the mine. The editor hopes that not much will be found, that even suspicion itself can imagine was introduced merely for the purpose of swelling the volume—The Doctor's manner is so striking

in all, that no one acquainted with his writings, will doubt that the whole has proceeded from his pen.

"A more suitable arrangement of the pieces would have been made, if they had all been obtained at once; but while some were in the press, others were to be sought for at many miles distance. This, however, is a matter of small moment, which in a second edition will easily be corrected."

ART. VI. *An Account of the State Prison or Penitentiary House in the City of New-York. By one of the Inspectors of the Prison.* 8vo. pp. 94. *New-York.* Isaac Collins & Son. 1801.

EVERY member of society is deeply interested in that portion of the laws which declares and defines what actions shall be regarded as crimes, and determines the nature and measure of their punishment. For, as Sir MICHAEL FOSTER has observed, in his preface to his excellent discourses on *crown law*, "no rank, no elevation in life, no conduct, how circumspect soever, ought to tempt a reasonable man to conclude, that such inquiries do not, nor possibly can, concern him. A moment's cool reflection on the utter instability of human affairs, and the numberless unforeseen events which a day may bring forth, will be sufficient to guard a man, conscious of his own infirmities, against a delusion of this kind." To know also, we may add, the principles and nature of those humane projects, which have been devised for the melioration of the codes of penal law, and the results of the experiments made under new and improved systems of punishment, if not the duty of every individual, is at least worthy of every liberal and benevolent mind.

It was with pleasure that we saw this account of an institution in which *New-York* has so honourably vied with, if not surpassed, *Pennsylvania*. Ignorance, the parent of error, has probably led many to form hasty and inconsiderate conclusions of its efficacy or ultimate success, and it was proper that the public should be made acquainted with its progress thus far: For "it is to be lamented," says the author, "that many good citizens, feeling a just abhorrence at crimes, consulting the suggestions of virtuous indignation, rather than the principles of justice, become impatient that the alteration of the penal code has not yet produced greater and more decided effects, and diminished the number of the guilty. They some-

times even express a regret at the change which has been wrought in our laws; and, returning to a system of accumulated severity and terror, wish to see every offence against life and property punished with death, as if crimes would cease with the extermination of the criminal. But let such turn their eyes inward upon their own hearts, and analyze the source from whence such wishes arise. Let them consider the effects produced on society and manners by the rapid increase of wealth and luxury, natural population, and emigration, which consequently augment the number of crimes, whether the laws be mild or sanguinary. Let them consult reason, and the experience of the most enlightened nations, which prove, beyond all contradiction, that crimes are most frequent where the laws are most rigorous; that punishments *mild* and *certain* more effectually prevent crimes, than those which are sanguinary and severe. Let them at least examine, before they condemn, a system sanctioned by different legislatures, prudent and enlightened, and applauded by the wisest and best men in all civilized countries."

The work is divided into sections, which comprise the following subjects:

1. *Description of the Edifice, Workshops, Cells, &c.*
2. *Of the Inspectors.*
3. *Of the Keeper and his Assistants.*
4. *Of the Prisoners; their General Treatment, Occupations, Dress, Diet, and means of Reformation.*

The section which treats of the seven inspectors of the prison gives a brief recital of the various duties, and of the arrangements made for the exact and regular discharge of those duties. Every benevolent heart will be pleased with the information, that it is the particular business of two inspectors to visit the prison once in each week during the recess of the board; that "it is their duty to inquire into and inspect the general state of the prison; to see that the keepers are attentive and faithful in the discharge of their several duties; that cleanliness, decency, and order are every where maintained; that the prisoners are treated with justice and humanity: to listen to their complaints and communications; to admonish the bad, applaud the good, and encourage all to amendment and reformation; and to give them such advice as may awaken virtuous sensibility, and promote their moral and religious improvement."

This statement is followed by a reflection, expressed in a manner that cannot fail to affect the sensibility of those who

are accustomed to commiserate the sufferings of the prostrate victims of offended justice.

" This occasional intercourse, in which the prisoners discover in their visitors the features of benevolence, not the contemptuous frowns of an unfeeling tyrant, has a tendency to encourage the well-disposed, and soften the hearts of such as are grown obdurate by reiterated crimes. While it represses the ferocious insolence of the hardened offender, it tranquilizes the tumultuous feelings of despair; and instead of gloomy indifference, depression, and contempt, excites emotions of hope and fear, attention and respect, which prepare the mind to receive impressions favourable to future amendment."

Under the head of *diet* a number of statements are made, by which it appears that the *Rumford* system of economy has been adopted with great success. We present the following " recapitulation" for the satisfaction of such as may not have an opportunity of procuring this valuable and interesting publication.

" The composition and cost of the daily meals of three hundred and fifteen persons in the month of November, 1801.

	Dolls.	*Cts.*
" Breakfast, rye coffee and bread	5	7
" Dinner, soup *with potatoes*	9	51
" Supper, mush, molasses and bread	3	55
" Fuel to heat water for washing dishes	0	8
" Total	18	21

" Or 5¾ cents each person."

The saving of *fuel* is also remarkable. In the first establishment of the prison, the wood expended in the kitchen, in the ordinary mode of cooking, cost two dollars and seventy-five cents per day for 125 persons.

By altering the plan to that recommended by Count Rumford, the expense of fuel was reduced to 50 cents a day for 315 persons, or in the proportion of 22 to 1½.

The *Appendix* contains thirteen *tables*, which exhibit, in a clear and satisfactory manner, the number of convicts since the opening of the prison, their several crimes, their places of birth, and terms of imprisonment; their employments, diseases, &c. and the expenditures for the conviction and maintenance of the prisoners, and the profits arising from their labour. These tables, to the enlightened and reflecting reader, will constitute not the least valuable portion of this little volume. We extract the following remarks of the writer:

"From this enumeration it appears, that the number of offences, in proportion to the number of those whose persons and property are exposed to violence and depredation, is very considerably greater in the city of New-York than in all the rest of the State.

"In the former the number of offenders, compared with the number of people, is as 1 to 129.

"In the latter the proportion is as 1 to 2633.

"So that the relative proportion of crimes between the capital and the country, drawn from the comparative population of each, may be stated as 22 to 1, rejecting fractional parts of an unit.

"It is likewise worthy of remark, first, that very near three-fourths of the offenders in the preceding tables are adventurers from foreign countries; secondly, that though the blacks constitute less than *one twenty-eighth* part of the whole population of the State, yet they form nearly *one-third* of the whole number of convicts.—These facts afford an instructive lesson on the influence, first, of European and West-Indian emigration, and, next, of negro slavery. It is hoped that it will not be thought unimportant to call the attention of the reader to the proportion between male and female offenders. Of the whole number of convicts, the women form less than *one-eighth* part; but it is an additional proof of the degeneracy of the blacks, that near four-fifths of the women are of that race. One-third of the number of blacks, however, are from European colonies, in the West-Indies and Africa.

"From this examination of the above tables, which might be rendered still more minute and interesting, the curious and inquisitive reader will discover how far the state of society and manners is manifested in the enumeration of the crimes committed; and how far they have been increased by emigrants from the more corrupt and turbulent societies of Europe. The vast difference between the number of crimes in the city of New-York, and the rest of the State, taken in relation either to their absolute or comparative population, will lead to an inquiry into the true causes of the most numerous classes of crimes, and the most probable means of their prevention; such as improvement in the management and economy of the *city prisons*, in the punishment of petty offences, and in the melioration of the laws and general police of the city, in many things which, in their present state, have an undoubted tendency to deprave the morals of the people.

"In any view which may be taken of the number of crimes, or the system of punishment in this State, compared with those which exist in Europe, there is reason to approve the general wisdom and humanity of our laws and institutions, and to be

induced to persevere in our exertions to improve and maintain the excellent system we have adopted."

The many sensible and ingenious observations interspersed throughout this work do credit to the understanding of the writer, while the language in which they are expressed is entitled to our highest approbation. And we may freely recommend this publication to the attentive consideration of all those who feel any concern in the progress or success of the great experiment now making on the new scheme of punishments.

Two engravings are prefixed; the one representing the elevation of the prison, the other giving a view of the interior of the edifice, with the wings, cells, courts, work-shops, &c. These, together with the printing, are very neatly executed.

ART. IV. *The American Revolution; written in Scriptural, or Ancient Historical Style. By* Richard Snowden. 12mo. pp. 360. *Baltimore.* Pechin.

THE language of the Bible has been sometimes applied, in a burlesque manner, to the narration of recent events, but for ourselves, we never approved such an use of the scriptures. Things recent and familiar, when presented to the mind in a garb antiquated and incongruous, must produce a ludicrous effect, and tend to diminish a veneration for that sacred volume, which ought always to be felt and cherished.—Though we have seen such occasional applications of scriptural style to profane subjects, we could have hardly imagined any man would seriously engage in an undertaking so preposterous as that of the author of the volume now before us. Charity prompts us to acquit him of any design to lessen our respect for the language of holy writ, which he has attempted to imitate; but his good sense, his taste, and his knowledge of mankind, may, in the present instance, be fairly called in question.

Mr. Snowden, having filled his memory with scriptural phrases, introduces them, throughout his work, with little meaning or grace, and in a manner often ridiculous. His imitations, however, are as far from the original, as his plan is remote from propriety and common sense.

A few quotations may suffice to shew those who may not chance to see the book, the manner in which the author has executed his singular task.

The first relates to that memorable subject, the tax upon tea.

"And there were at that time a company of merchants in the town of Lud,* that ancient city, who had a navy of ships that went once in three years to a far country to traffic with the merchants of the East for the Indian weed.

"And the merchants sold the weed to the people of the kingdom of Britain at a certain price, and it brought much wealth into the treasury of the king.

"Notwithstanding it was no better than the herbage of the field, or the hysop which groweth with the garden of the husbandman, yet the people loved to have it so.

"Now the women of the land put the weed into fine earthen vessels, and they put water into the vessels, and they poured out drink offerings thereof into cups of enamel work; and it was their morning and evening potation."

This weed, as Mr. S. terms it, is transported to America in the following ingenious manner:

"Then were all the store-houses set open, and the Indian weed was brought forth in chests made of the fir-tree, and the chests were lined with broad sheets of lead, to preserve the weed from the waters.

"And the chests were put upon carriages that were part of wood and part of iron, and horses were put to the carriages, (now there were no such carriages in the days of Solomon.)

"And they went by the way of the street of the city, until thou comest to the tower of Lud, which looketh towards the river, where was a fair haven for ships.

"Now when the ships had taken in their lading, the mariners spread their sails to the wind, and unloosed their rudder-bands, and launched out into the great deep; and after they had set a compass, they steered a straight course to the land of Columbia, that lieth to the westward of Britain, twenty-four thousand furlongs."

Artillery and gun-powder are thus awkwardly and obscurely described:

"These ships were armed with engines, such as were not known in the days of old: fire and balls issued out of their mouths; and the men who had the charge thereof could shoot the balls to an hair's breadth! They were the invention of *Satan*, and as it is written in the book of *John*,† the sweet singer of Albion.

* "London, anciently called Lud, after a king of that name."

† "Milton's Paradise Lost."

"And the men heated the furnace seven times hotter than it was wont to be heated, and they cast the iron into the furnace, and lo! it became an engine to destroy men!

"But he could not prevail, inasmuch as the black dust which they put into their engines began to fail. Now the dust was made of nitre and brimstone, and without it the engines could do nothing.

"And the spoil and the captives were brought to the camp, and *Montgomery*, the chief captain, when he saw the black dust, commanded that the destroying engine should be set to work, and the noise thereof was like the noise of mighty thunders!"

A person who was not familiar with the subject, would be at a loss to know that *paper money* was intended in the following sentence:

"For the army of the people of the Provinces had no money except the money of the great Sanhedrim, which was made of filthy rags, and the husbandmen loathed to see it."

Annexed to the *history*, is a *poem*, called the *Columbiad*, in thirteen cantos. In his *preface* the author tells us, that "having for several years desired and expected to see the great events that brought about the *American Revolution*, in a *poetical* dress, but dissappointed in his hopes, he ventured to make the attempt himself;—and if this short essay should prove a *stimulous* to some one more favoured of the Muses, who will undertake the arduous task, and carry it through upon a *more extensive scale*, he shall think himself so far fortunate, that his labour has not been in vain. With this introduction (and as far as he knows his own heart), divested of all vanity as an Author, Poet, or Historian, or whatever you may please to call him—He offers this *epitome* on the *American War* to the candid public, and ushers it into the world as an orphan, without any other patronage than its own merit."

Whoever can have the patience to read one of the 13 Cantos of this *historical* poem, will be fully convinced that the author is at least no *poet*, and what else to call him, we leave to the pleasure of the reader, who cannot well mistake an appropriate title.

The following lines, which rise above the rest in sublimity and pathos, will serve as a specimen.

"But ah, what woes! what thirst for human gore,
Now fierce prevail'd along the southern shore!
There whigs and tories, stung by deadly hate,
On murther bend—rush'd blindly on their fate!
By the high-ways, beneath a spreading tree,
Man watch'd for man, as for an enemy!

Demoniac rage first spurr'd the tories *on:*
The whigs revenge, and thus their woes *prolong.*
Widows and orphans, *multiply amain;*
Those mourn their husbands, these their fathers slain!
Such cursed wrath man's dignity *degrades*—
Such cruel murthers, stain the Gallic *page!*
Death's meagre jaws with terrible uproar,
Clatter'd around, besmear'd with human gore!
His lacerated limbs his pains beguile—
The spouting blood diffus'd a horrid smile!
Then as a vulture, feasting on his pray [prey],
He tore the flesh, and bore his prize away!"

This wretched orphan, *thus ushered into the world without any patronage but its own merit*, will, we fear, with its brother in prose, find an early grave. It may afford some relief to its disconsolate parent, to compose an epitaph suitable to the melancholy occasion.

ART. V. *Reports of Cases ruled and adjudged in the Courts of Pennsylvania, before and since the Revolution; and in the several Courts of the United States, and of Pennsylvania, held at the Seat of the Federal Government. By* A. J. Dallas, *Esq.* 3 vols. 8vo. pp. 500 each. *Philadelphia.* 1790, 1797, 1799.

THOUGH divided into separate and independent sovereignties, the several States of America do not, perhaps, differ so widely from each other in their laws and customs, as the several provinces or counties of a single government in Europe. The strong resemblance which prevails in this respect among the States, is to be ascribed to the sameness of their origin and language, and to the similarity of manners and situation. Yet in the progress of time, changes of condition, and other circumstances, will gradually produce a diversity in the usages and forms of legal proceedings in different jurisdictions. Those who are prompted by a liberal curiosity to examine and compare the laws and customs of the several communities which compose the United States, or those whose station requires a thorough knowledge of them all, will perceive the great utility of books in which the adjudications of the National and State courts are faithfully recorded.

We have before expressed our satisfaction on observing the growing disposition of professional men, in different parts of our country, to collect and publish the judicial determinations of the courts in their respective districts. Of the publications

of this kind which we have seen, none has equalled in value and respectability the one now before us. The author has been long known as a learned and distinguished advocate at the bar of Pennsylvania; and he could not, perhaps, have better discharged the duty, which Lord COKE thought every man owed to his profession, than by the execution of such a work.

These three volumes of Reports, though published separately, and at different times, have not been before examined by us, and are now brought under one view. The first volume, and a considerable part of the second, is composed of the adjudications of the courts of Pennsylvania. These, for obvious reasons, are of less value to lawyers of other States; but the decisions of the Supreme Court of the United States, from its first session, in February, 1790, to February term, 1799, inclusive, which fill nearly a volume, will prove of use to all.

The decisions of the Circuit Court of the United States for the Pennsylvania District, from April, 1792, to April term, 1799, inclusive, are also reported, as well as some cases adjudged in the Federal Court of Appeals, before the adoption of the present Constitution of the United States.

Among the cases in the Supreme Federal Court will be found some which involved questions of the highest importance, and which were discussed with great learning and ability. That of *Chisholm, Executor*, vs. *Georgia*, in which the great question of the *suability* of the States was decided, though of no use as a precedent, since, by the amendment of the Constitution, no State can now be sued, yet it will afford matter for interesting observation in the judicial history of the United States. Several other cases, in which the constitutionality of certain acts of Congress are decided upon, and the meaning of several parts of the Constitution settled by the court, will be perused with pleasure and profit by those who feel interested in such discussions. The adjudications on commercial and maritime law, and the laws of nations, which are interspersed in these volumes, will considerably enhance their value, as the decisions of our national tribunals are no where else to be found.

The utility of books of reports must depend upon their accuracy. Of the fidelity of Mr. D. it is not in our power to judge. The manner in which he has executed a laborious and arduous undertaking, entitles him to praise. It is somewhat difficult in reporting, to attain the due mean between a dry and abridged statement of the point before the court, and a minute relation of facts and of the arguments of the counsel in the cause. From necessity or choice, there is some variety of method in

these volumes; and though, in a few instances, the attention is fatigued by the prolix reasonings of the advocates and of the court, this is not to be imputed so much to the reporter as to those whose opinions he, probably, thought it his duty to give, as they were delivered, without compression or curtailment.—It is not easy to say how far it is necessary to refer to *all the authorities* which the laborious researches of the different counsel have produced to the court. The mind of the reader is often confused or wearied by a reference to numerous authorities; some of which are of doubtful application, and others hackneyed or trivial. Yet, considering the weight which precedents have in the scales of justice, it may be thought too much to vest a discretionary power in the reporter to reject any which have been brought to support either side of a cause, from his own opinion of their weakness or inutility.

It would have assisted the reader, if the points decided in each cause had been abstracted in marginal notes, and the title of the cause printed on every page. This may deserve the attention of the reporter, in the printing of future volumes. A *fourth* is mentioned by him, in 1799, as almost ready for the press, to which will be annexed "a general review of the whole work, with such remarks, alterations, amendments, and additions, as can be collected from his own experience and the liberal communications of the bar."

On the whole, though some errors will unavoidably creep into a work of such magnitude, those for whose use these volumes are designed, are much indebted to the compiler for the pains he has taken in preparing and publishing them in a manner so worthy of general approbation.

Art. VI. *Wieland, or the Transformation.*

[Continued from vol. i. p. 339, and concluded.]

THE extraordinary and shocking death of the father of young Wieland was shortly followed by the death of his mother. Left with his sister, the supposed narrator of the tale, to the care of a maiden aunt, he passed his youthful days in the acquisition of knowledge, and in the society of his sister, and her intimate friend and companion, *Catharine Pleyel*. On arriving at full age he married Miss Pleyel, and having chosen agriculture as his occupation, he took possession of the farm and mansion of his father. Six years of uninterrupted happiness passed in retirement; during which time he was blessed with four

lovely children. His social circle was further enlarged by the presence of Henry Pleyel, his wife's brother, and Miss CONWAY, a young lady whom misfortune had placed under the care of the aunt.

One evening, when his family and friends were assembled together, Wieland having occasion to visit the building which had been the scene of his father's death, is stopped on his approach, by the voice of his wife issuing from the building before him, warning him not to come thither, "for danger is in the path." The astonished husband returns to his house, where he finds his wife seated as he had left her, and surrounded with friends, who were witnesses that she had not moved from her chair. This incident is viewed in various lights by the friends of Wieland. The reality of the voice, however, is soon put beyond dispute, when Wieland and Pleyel are jointly addressed in a manner still more mysterious and impressive; and the latter is assured of the death of a lady at Leipsic, by whom he was beloved, and to whom he was preparing to return: he delays his departure a few weeks, when he received undoubted intelligence, in the ordinary way, of her death.

"These incidents, for a time, occupied all our thoughts. In me they produced a sentiment not unallied to pleasure, and more speedily than in the case of my friends were intermixed with other topics. My brother was particularly affected by them. It was easy to perceive that most of his meditations were tinctured from this source. To this was to be ascribed a design in which his pen was, at this period, engaged, of collecting and investigating the facts which relate to that mysterious personage, the Dæmon of Socrates."

A personage is now introduced, who is the mysterious and secret mover of the scenes which follow. His first appearance and person are thus described:

"One sunny afternoon, I was standing in the door of my house, when I marked a person passing close to the edge of the bank that was in front. His pace was a careless and lingering one, and had none of that gracefulness and ease which distinguish a person with certain advantages of education from a clown. His gait was rustic and awkward. His form was ungainly and disproportioned. Shoulders broad and square, breast sunken, his head drooping, his body of uniform breadth, supported by long and lank legs, were the ingredients of his frame. His garb was not ill adapted to such a figure. A slouched hat, tarnished by the weather, a coat of thick grey cloth, cut and wrought, as it seemed, by a country tailor, blue worsted stock-

ings, and shoes fastened by thongs, and deeply discoloured by dust, which brush had never disturbed, constituted his dress.

"There was nothing remarkable in these appearances; they were frequently to be met with on the road, and in the harvest field. I cannot tell why I gazed upon them, on this occasion, with more than ordinary attention, unless it were that such figures were seldom seen by me, except on the road or field. This lawn was only traversed by men whose views were directed to the pleasures of the walk, or the grandeur of the scenery.

"He passed slowly along, frequently pausing, as if to examine the prospect more deliberately, but never turning his eye towards the house, so as to allow me a view of his countenance. Presently he entered a copse at a small distance, and disappeared. My eye followed him while he remained in sight. If his image remained for any duration in my fancy after his departure, it was because no other object occurred sufficient to expel it.

"The impression that it made was vivid and indelible. His cheeks were pallid and lank, his eyes sunken, his forehead overshadowed by coarse straggling hairs, his teeth large and irregular, though sound and brilliantly white, and his chin discoloured by a tetter. His skin was of coarse grain and sallow hue. Every feature was wide of beauty, and the outline of his face reminded you of an inverted cone.

"And yet his forehead, so far as shaggy locks would allow it to be seen, his eyes lustrously black, and possessing, in the midst of haggardness, a radiance inexpressibly serene and potent, and something in the rest of his features, which it would be in vain to describe, but which served to betoken a mind of the highest order, were essential ingredients in the portrait."

CARWIN, for such is the name of this singular being, by degrees gains admission into the family of Wieland, and becomes an intimate acquaintance. Possessed of the extraordinary faculty of *ventriloquism*,* the reality of which cannot be

* "*Biloquium*, or ventrilocution. Sound is varied according to the variations of direction and distance. The art of the ventriloquist consists in modifying his voice according to all these variations, without changing his place. See the work of the Abbe de la Chappelle, in which are accurately recorded the performances of one of these artists, and some ingenious, though unsatisfactory speculations are given on the means by which the effects are produced. This power is, perhaps, given by nature, but is doubtless improveable, if not acquirable, by art. It may, possibly, consist in an unusual flexibility or exertion of the bottom of the tongue and the uvula. That speech is producible by these alone must be granted, since anatomists mention two instances of persons speaking without a tongue. In one case the organ was originally wanting, but its place was supplied by a small tubercle, and the uvula was perfect. In the other the tongue was destroyed by disease, but probably a small part of it remained.

denied, but whose effects are not generally known, nor easily to be explained, he exerts his power, on various occasions, under circumstances so fearfully mysterious as to fill the imagination of the sister of Wieland with the most terrifying images. To detail these intricate, but well contrived incidents, would exceed our bounds. The following instance will serve to assist the reader in forming an idea of the rest.

"Suddenly the remembrance of what had lately passed in this closet occurred. Whether midnight was approaching, or had passed, I knew not. I was, as then, alone and defenceless. The wind was in that direction in which, aided by the deathlike repose of nature, it brought to me the murmur of the water-fall. This was mingled with that solemn and enchanting sound, which a breeze produces among the leaves of pines. The words of that mysterious dialogue, their fearful import, and the wild excess to which I was transported by my terrors, filled my imagination anew. My steps faltered, and I stood a moment to recover myself.

"I prevailed on myself at length to move towards the closet. I touched the lock, but my fingers were powerless; I was visited afresh by unconquerable apprehension. A sort of belief darted into my mind, that some being was concealed within, whose purposes were evil. I began to contend with those fears, when it occurred to me that I might, without impropriety, go for a lamp previously to opening the closet. I receded a few steps; but before I reached my chamber door my thoughts took a new direction. Motion seemed to produce a mechanical influence upon me. I was ashamed of my weakness. Besides, what aid could be afforded me by a lamp?

"My fears had pictured to themselves no precise object. It would be difficult to depict, in words, the ingredients and hues of that phantom which haunted me. An hand invisible and of preternatural strength, lifted by human passions, and selecting my life for its aim, were parts of this terrific image. All places were alike accessible to this foe, or if his empire were restricted by local bounds, those bounds were utterly inscrutible by me. But had I not been told by some one in league with this enemy, that every place but the recess in the bank was exempt from danger?

"I returned to the closet, and once more put my hand upon

"This power is difficult to explain, but the fact is undeniable. Experience shews that the human voice can imitate the voice of all men and of all inferior animals. The sound of musical instruments, and even noises from the contact of inanimate substances, have been accurately imitated. The mimicry of animals is notorious; and Dr. Burney (Musical Travels) mentions one who imitated a flute and violin so as to deceive even his ears."

the lock. O! may my ears lose their sensibility, ere they be again assailed by a shriek so terrible! Not merely my understanding was subdued by the sound: it acted on my nerves like an edge of steel. It appeared to cut asunder the fibres of my brain, and rack every joint with agony.

"The cry, loud and piercing as it was, was nevertheless human. No articulation was ever more distinct. The breath which accompanied it did not fan my hair, yet did every circumstance combine to persuade me that the lips which uttered it touched my very shoulder.

"Hold! Hold! were the words of this tremendous prohibition, in whose tone the whole soul seemed to be rapt up, and every energy converted into eagerness and terror.

"Shuddering, I dashed myself against the wall, and by the same involuntary impulse, turned my face backward to examine the mysterious monitor. The moon-light streamed into each window, and every corner of the room was conspicuous, and yet I beheld nothing!

"The interval was too brief to be artificially measured, between the utterance of these words, and my scrutiny directed to the quarter whence they came. Yet if a human being had been there, could he fail to have been visible? Which of my senses was the prey of a fatal illusion? The shock which the sound produced was still felt in every part of my frame. The sound, therefore, could not but be a genuine commotion. But that I had heard it was not more true than that the being who uttered it was stationed at my right ear; yet my attendant was invisible.

"I cannot describe the state of my thoughts at that moment. Surprise had mastered my faculties. My frame shook, and the vital current was congealed. I was conscious only to the vehemence of my sensations. This condition could not be lasting. Like a tide, which suddenly mounts to an overwhelming height, and then gradually subsides, my confusion slowly gave place to order, and my tumults to a calm. I was able to deliberate and move. I resumed my feet, and advanced into the midst of the room. Upward, and behind, and on each side, I threw penetrating glances. I was not satisfied with one examination. He that hitherto refused to be seen might change his purpose, and on the next survey be clearly distinguishable.

"Solitude imposes least restraint upon the fancy. Dark is less fertile of images than the feeble lustre of the moon. I was alone, and the walls were checquered by shadowy forms. As the moon passed behind a cloud, and emerged, these shadows seemed to be endowed with life, and to move. The apartment was open to the breeze, and the curtain was occa-

sionally blown from its ordinary position. This motion was not unaccompanied with sound. I failed not to snatch a look, and to listen when this motion and sound occurred. My belief that my monitor was posted near, was strong, and instantly converted these appearances to tokens of his presence, and yet I could discern nothing."

Invited to a midnight interview by the author of her perplexity and distress, urged by an irresistible desire to discover the source of the mysterious circumstances which surround and overwhelm her, she determines to meet *Carwin* at her own house, which she had recently left for the purpose of residing with her brother. After visiting the habitation of her brother, and finding it deserted, she repairs to her own dwelling, where, instead of *Carwin*, the first object which strikes her astonished sight is the lifeless corse of the beloved wife of her brother extended on her own bed. While she is pouring forth her grief at this spectacle, Wieland enters the apartment, and by his looks discovers that some dreadful madness had seized his brain. Before he has time to add another victim to his frenzy, he is alarmed by the footsteps of friends and neighbours, and flies before his astonished sister could comprehend the meaning of the scene, or the purpose of his visit. After a most painful suspense, she learns that all the children of her brother had fallen by the same had which had slain their mother. Her senses forsook her, and it was not until a long time, when her reason was restored, and her tranquillity in some degree regained, that she was informed of the real assassin of her brother's family. She had supposed Carwin to be author of the ruin, until her uncle, one day, put into her hands a paper which contained a record of the speech delivered by Wieland at his trial, in which he avows the object of his infatuated zeal, and details, in terms the most affecting, the unnatural and inhuman acts he was prompted, under the influence of a deluded imagination, to perpetrate.

The perusal of this paper gave such a shock to the feelings of Miss Wieland, that she was with difficulty rescued from the grave. Time, however, and the assiduous attentions of her uncle, got the better of her malady; and by his advice, she prepared to visit Europe for the recovery of her health. Previous to her departure she resolved to behold once more her long deserted mansion.

Here, to her utter astonishment, *Carwin* reappears. His presence deprives her, for some time, of sense and motion; on recovering her recollection, she, at length, yields to his intreaties to be heard in his defence, and listens to an explanation of

the mysterious sounds which had assailed her ears, and of the motives which impelled him to produce them.

This developement is not perfectly satisfactory. The motives assigned for the conduct of Carwin appear to us insufficient, nor are the effects described explained by adequate causes. This defect may be ascribed to an imperfect knowledge of the nature and operation of that power which the author has chosen for raising the wonder, and exciting the curiosity of his readers. We are inclined to believe that no possible exertion of the faculty given to Carwin, nor any application of the human organs, could ever produce the effects here supposed.

Many intelligent persons absolutely deny the existence of any peculiar or distinct faculty of this kind, but regard the instances of ventriloquism which have appeared, as nothing more than an improved power of imitation, or an artful suppression and modification of the common voice, aided by the ordinary laws of sound. The strong assertions on both sides leave the matter in doubt, though, relying on the authority of reputable witnesses, we have been disposed to admit its reality to a certain extent.

But the writers of novels and romances may be fairly indulged in the same liberty in use of the means of affecting the imagination of their readers, which poets have uniformly claimed and exercised. Fiction and fancy belong equally to both, and while the laws of nature are not violated, or the bounds of probability exceeded, both equally deserve to escape censure.

During the conversation with *Carwin*, *Wieland*, who had been confined as a *maniac*, having found means to elude the vigilance of his keepers, enters the apartment. His appearance is well described; and the dialogue between him and Carwin, in which the latter declares himself to be the author of those mysterious sounds, those solemn warnings, which the gloomy imagination of Wieland had mistaken for supernatural agency, is interesting and impressive. His rage subsides into gentleness; his belief is for a moment shaken; and a faint glimmering light of truth seems breaking on his benighted intellect. At his command Carwin retires. Left with his sister, Wieland resumes the purpose of completing the work of death, by her destruction. A scene painfully affecting ensues. Carwin suddenly returns, and is called on by the sister to exert his fatal power to avert the impending blow.

"A voice, louder than human organs could produce, shriller than language can depict, burst from the ceiling, and commanded him to—*hold!*

"Silence took place for a moment; so much as allowed the attention to recover its post. Then new sounds were uttered from above.

'Man of errors! cease to cherish thy delusion: not heaven or hell, but thy senses have misled thee to commit these acts. Shake off thy phrenzy, and ascend into rational and human. Be lunatic no longer.'

"My brother opened his lips to speak. His tone was terrific and faint. He muttered an appeal to heaven. It was difficult to comprehend the theme of his inquiries. They implied doubt as to the nature of the impulse that hitherto had guided him, and questioned whether he had acted in consequence of insane perceptions.

"To these interrogatories, the voice, which now seemed to hover at his shoulder, loudly answered in the affirmative. Then uninterrupted silence ensued.

"Fallen from his lofty and heroic station; now finally restored to the perception of truth; weighed to earth by the recollection of his own deeds; consoled no longer by a consciousness of rectitude for the loss of offspring and wife—a loss for which he was indebted to his own misguided hand; Wieland was transformed at once into the *man of sorrows!*

"He reflected not that credit should be as reasonably denied to the last as to any former intimation; that one might as justly be ascribed to erring or diseased senses as the other. He saw not that this discovery in no degree affected the integrity of his conduct; that his motives had lost none of their claims to the homage of mankind; that the preference of supreme good, and the boundless energy of duty, were undiminished in his bosom.

"It is not for me to pursue him through the ghastly changes of his countenance. Words he had none. Now he sat upon the floor, motionless in all his limbs, with his eyes glazed and fixed; a monument of woe.

"Anon a spirit of tempestuous but undesigning activity seized him. He rose from his place, and strode across the floor, tottering and at random. His eyes were without moisture, and gleamed with the fire that consumed his vitals. The muscles of his face were agitated by convulsion. His lips moved, but no sound escaped him.

"That nature should long sustain this conflict was not to be believed. My state was little different from that of my brother. I entered, as it were, into his thought. My heart was visited and rent by his pangs. Oh that thy phrenzy had never been cured! that thy madness, with its blissful visions, would return! or, if that must not be, that thy scene would hasten to a close! that death would cover thee with his oblivion!

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"What can I wish for thee? Thou who hast vied with the great preacher of thy faith in sanctity of motives, and in elevation above sensual and selfish! Thou whom thy fate has changed into parricide and savage! Can I wish for the continuance of thy being? No.

"For a time his movements seemed destitute of purpose. If he walked, if he turned, if his fingers were entwined with each other, if his hands were pressed against opposite sides of his head with a force sufficient to crush it into pieces, it was to tear his mind from self-contemplation, to waste his thoughts on external objects.

"Speedily this train was broken. A beam appeared to be darted into his mind, which gave a purpose to his efforts. An avenue to escape presented itself; and now he eagerly gazed about him: when my thoughts became engaged by his demeanour, my fingers were stretched as by a mechanical force, and the knife, no longer heeded or of use, escaped from my grasp, and fell unperceived on the floor. His eye now lighted upon it; he seized it with the quickness of thought.

"I shrieked aloud, but it was too late. He plunged it to the hilt in his neck; and his life instantly escaped with the stream that gushed from the wound. He was stretched at my feet; and my hands were sprinkled with his blood as he fell.

"Such was thy last deed, my brother! For a spectacle like this was it my fate to be reserved! Thy eyes were closed—thy face ghastly with death—thy arms, and the spot where thou liedst, floated in thy life's blood! These images have not, for a moment, forsaken me. Till I am breathless and cold, they must continue to hover in my sight."

Such are the leading incidents in the story of Wieland. The episode of Miss *Conway*, and the attachment between *Pleyel* and Miss *Weiland*, which serve to diversify the scenes, and relieve the mind from the horror and distress of the general tale, are passed over in the rapid sketch we have given.

It will imply some commendation of the author's powers of narration, when we say, that having begun the perusal of this volume, we were irresistibly led on to the conclusion of the tale. The style is clear, forcible and correct. Passages of great elegance might be selected, and others which breathe a strain of lively and impassioned eloquence.

It is impossible not to sympathise in the terror and distress of the sister of Wieland. Persons of lively sensibility and active imaginations may, probably, think that some of the scenes are too shocking and painful to be endured even in fiction.

The soliloquies of some of the characters are unreasonably

long, and the attention is wearied in listening to the conjectures, the reasonings, the hopes and fears which are successively formed and rejected, at a moment when expectation is already strained to its highest pitch. These intellectual conflicts and processes of the imagination show fertility of conception, and the art of the narrator; but this art is too often exercised in suspending the course of action so as to render the reader restless and impatient. The generality of readers love rather to be borne along by a rapid narrative, and to be roused to attention by the quick succession of new and unexpected incidents.

The characters which are introduced are not numerous; nor are they such as may be easily found in the walks of common life. Carwin is an extraordinary being, and, in some degree, incomprehensible. If his prototype is not in nature, he must be acknowledged the creature of a vigorous fancy, fitted to excite curiosity and expectation. The author seems to have intended to exhibit him more fully to view; but not having finished the portrait, or doubtful of the effect of the exhibition, has reserved him for some future occasion, when he may be made the hero of his own story. The consequences produced by the exercise of the powers imputed to him were not foreseen, and were beyond the reach of his controul. Their exertion was from the impulse of caprice, or for a momentary self-gratification. He is the author of the most dreadful calamities, without any malicious or evil intention.—The reader sees the misery and ruin of an amiable family, by ignorant and deluded beings, undeserving the severity of punishment.—The endowments of such a being as Carwin, if they can possibly exist to the extent here imagined, are without advantage to the possessor, and can be of no benefit to mankind. This seems to be the principal lesson taught by the delineation of such a character.

Wieland and his family, in retirement, devoted to contemplation and study, and mixing little in the varied scenes of enlarged society, furnish few of those instructive facts and situations which may be supposed to occur in the usual progress of life. The even tenor of their existence is not broken by the stronger impulses of social feeling, or agitated by the conflict of violent passions. Their repose is disturbed, and their imaginations excited, by unknown and invisible agents. Comparisons, therefore, with the actual or probable situation of the reader, are not often suggested, nor are many precepts of instruction to be derived from examples too rare for general application. Against the

freaks of a *ventriloquist*, or the illusions of a madman, no rules can be prescribed for our protection. No prudence or foresight can guard us against evils which are to flow from such causes. The example of Wieland may teach us, indeed, the necessity of placing due restraints on the imagination; the folly of that presumptuous desire which seeks for gratifications inconsistent with the laws of existence and the ordinary course of nature; and to be content with the light which is set before us in the path of our moral and religious duties, without seeking for new illuminations. From the exhibition, however, of an infatuated being, deluded by the suggestions of a disturbed intellect, into the commission of acts the most unnatural and horrid, it is doubtful whether any real good is to be derived. But whether benefit or harm, or how much of either is to be received from tales of this kind, we are not prepared to decide, and they are questions not easily solved. The good or ill effect of a book, in most cases, depends on the previous disposition and character of the reader.

The author has certainly contrived a narration deeply interesting; and whatever may be its faults, and some we have ventured to remark, *Wieland*, as a work of imagination, may be ranked high among the productions of the age.

ART. VII. *A View of Religions, in two Parts. Part* i. *Containing an Alphabetical Compendium of the various Religious Denominations which have appeared in the World, from the beginning of the Christian Æra to the present Day. Part* ii. *Containing a brief Account of the different Schemes of Religion now embraced among Mankind. The whole collected from the best Authors, ancient and modern. By* Hannah Adams. *The third Edition, with large Additions.* 8vo. pp. 504. *Boston.* Manning *and* Loring. 1801.

THE first edition of this work was published about ten or twelve years ago. A second was soon called for, and made its appearance, with considerable improvements. The demand for a third, and much larger impression, within so short a period, is one, among many proofs, of the growing taste for reading, and the increased sale of books, which it is pleasing to observe in our country.

Of the compiler of the present volume, our readers will re-

collect that we spoke in terms of respect, on a former occasion,* as the author of a *Summary History of New-England*, &c. If she appeared to advantage in narrating civil and political events, and took an honourable station among American historians, she is not less worthy of praise, in pourtraying the different christian denominations, and in describing the various departments of the religious world.—Religion is a subject with which every man is bound to be acquainted. This is a duty which he owes to himself as a rational being, to say nothing of higher and more interesting grounds of obligation. Nor is it enough for a liberal mind to make himself acquainted with that system of religious belief which is agreeable to scripture: he will also desire to know what other systems have been taught; by what arguments those creeds which differ from the truth have been defended; and to explore, as far as possible, the various forms and sources of error.—Such minute inquiries are not, indeed, incumbent on every individual; many have not leisure, and many more have not talents adequate to the task of making them. But they are desirable to all who have leisure and talents; and we are persuaded, in opposition to the opinion of some, that such investigations, when thoroughly and candidly made, instead of unhinging the mind, or diminishing the firmness and stability of christian faith, will confer additional light, decision and steadiness on both. The *truth as it is in Jesus* will appear more excellent and valuable when contrasted with delusive notions; and the mind will acquire new satisfaction and confidence on returning from the regions of falshood, covered with briars and thorns, to the goodly fields which revelation sets before us.

Various attempts have been made to bring together into one view an account of the different denominations of christians, and the different classes of religionists in the world; but we do not recollect to have seen any work on the plan of the present volume; and certainly none has come within our knowledge, at once so full, comprehensive and concise; so accurate in its statements, and yet so level to the capacity of the most unlearned.—Miss Adams has undoubtedly done a service to the religious world by the publication, and is entitled to its thanks for the pains she has taken to present the work in so improved a form.

The method in which Miss A. proceeded in collecting and preparing materials for this compilation, will appear from the following advertisement prefixed to her work:

* Monthly Magazine and American Review, vol. i. p. 445.

"The reader will be pleased to observe, that the following rules have been carefully adhered to through the whole of this performance.

"1. To avoid giving the least preference of one denomination above another; omitting those passages in the authors cited, where they pass their judgment on the sentiments of which they give an account; consequently the making use of any such appellations as heretics, schismatics, enthusiasts, fanatics, &c. is carefully avoided.

"2. To give a few of the arguments of the principal sects, from their own authors, where they could be obtained.

"3. To endeavour to give the sentiments of every sect in the general collective sense of that denomination.

"4. To give the whole, as much as possible, in the words of the authors from which the compilation is made; and, where that could not be done without too great prolixity, to take the utmost care not to misrepresent the ideas."

After a respectful dedication to Mr. ADAMS, late President of the United States, and an address to the reader by Mr. PRENTISS, whom we suppose to be the clergyman of the town in which Miss A. resides, there is an *introduction* of considerable length, containing a "brief account of the state of the world at the time of Christ's appearance upon earth." This is chiefly compiled from Mosheim's Ecclesiastical History, Enfield's History of Philosophy abridged, from Brucker, the Encyclopædia, and some other publications. The materials drawn from these sources appear to be laid together with judgment. The author then proceeds to give a list, in alphabetical order, of the numerous sects and denominations into which the Church of Christ has been divided, from its commencement to the present day; exhibiting briefly, but perspicuously, the opinions and practices which distinguish each denomination; and subjoining the principal authorities from which the account given is derived. To this part succeeds the *second*, which contains a brief view of the various kinds of religion, besides christianity, which have prevailed at different periods of the world, and among different portions of mankind: to which is added, an account, in regular order, of the different forms of religion professed or established in the several states and kingdoms of the world.

It will readily occur to the reader, that a plan of so much extent, and comprehending so great a variety of objects, some of them intricate and difficult of investigation, could not be executed without much reading, and indefatigable labour in collating and comparing different accounts. Miss

A. seems to have spared no pains to obtain all the information in her power concerning the subjects of which she treats, and appears also to state this information with great accuracy and candour.—We observe no material instance of departure from the excellent rules above quoted, which she prescribed to herself. In exhibiting the opinions and practices of some sects, indeed, she is much too short, scarcely giving any satisfactory statement of the circumstances by which they are distinguished; while, with respect to others, her accounts are disproportionately extended. Among many instances of the former kind which might be mentioned, we will take the liberty of pointing out the articles, *Cameronians*, *Puritans*, and *Seceders*, which undoubtedly deserved more attention and more room than have been assigned to them. As instances of the latter, we may refer to the articles, *Bereans*, *Hopkinsians*, *Materialists*, *Swedenborgians*, and several more, which, though of sufficient importance to fill a much larger space than is allotted to them, are, perhaps, longer, in proportion to the others, than they ought to have been.

Considering, however, the complex nature of Miss A.'s task, and the great difficulty, on the one hand, of gaining such information as she desired on some subjects, and of condensing that which she had gained, with respect to others, we think she has acquitted herself honourably, and that this volume will be another monument of her reading, diligence and judgment.

ART. VIII. *Explanation of the Synopsis of Chemical Nomenclature and Arrangement; containing several important Alterations of the Plan originally reported by the French Academicians. By* Samuel L. Mitchill, *M. D. F. R. S. E. Professor of Chemistry in Columbia College, &c. &c.* 8vo. pp. 44. *With a Chart. New-York.* T. & J. Swords. 1801.

NO person can engage in the study of chemistry without perceiving the importance of arrangement and nomenclature. By the assistance they afford, the learner is enabled to acquire his knowledge sooner, to remember it better, and more successfully to direct such inquiries as may tend to enlarge the boundaries of the science. Nothing has occurred in modern chemistry more memorable than the new system of nomenclature and arrangement which the illustrious academicians of

France offered to the world in the year 1787. The new face and dress in which they presented the subject not only created a new assemblage of embellishments and attractions, but furnished an opportunity to display them with a force and effect which had been before unknown. The improvement, however, was not confined merely to novelty of exterior. Every new term in the nomenclature, and every new modification in the arrangement, suggested a new series of speculations, experiments and combinations, and thereby conducted the inquirer to the discovery of facts and principles of the utmost importance.

But the French academicians themselves were sensible of the incompleteness and inaccuracy of the plan they had formed. Different persons, on various occasions, have undertaken to offer amendments; some with greater, others with less degree of learning and ingenuity; a few have been adopted, many have been totally rejected. Among these reformers, the author of the work now under consideration makes a conspicuous figure. How far he has succeeded in this arduous task, and to what extent his propositions of improvement have been adopted by others, we shall leave to the decision of our learned readers.

In the general views to which this performance is restricted by its brevity, the author treats of natural bodies in their most simple and elementary state. In doing this he follows the theory of natural philosophy by Father Boscovich, which is happily calculated to explain the general properties of matter, as well as the particular qualities of all the classes of bodies which have been hitherto examined.

According to the Boscovichian system, the whole mass of matter composing the universe consists of a very great, yet still finite, number of simple, indivisible, inextended atoms. These atoms possess repulsive and attractive forces, which are varied and interchanged according to the distance between them, in the following order:—In the least and innermost distances they repel one another; and this repulsive force increases beyond all limits as the distances are diminished, and is consequently sufficient to overcome the greatest impetus, and altogether to prevent the contact of the atoms. In the sensible distances this force is attractive, and decreases, at least sensibly, as the squares of the distances increase, thereby constituting universal gravitation, and extending beyond the sphere of the most distant comets. Between this interior repulsive force and the exterior attractive one, in the insensible

distances, many varieties and changes of the force, or determination to motion, take place; for the repulsive force decreases as the distance increases. At a certain distance it vanishes entirely; and when that distance is increased, attraction begins, increases, becomes less, vanishes; and the distance becoming greater, the force becomes repulsive, increases, lessens, and vanishes as before. Many varieties and changes of this kind, from repulsion to attraction, and from attraction back again to repulsion, happen in the insensible distances, sometimes more rapidly, sometimes more slowly. When it is considered that the least part of space is divisible *ad infinitum*, it will be apparent that there is room enough for these transitions in distances that are imperceptible to our organs. Besides repulsive and attractive forces, Boscovich assigns to the atoms which constitute matter that *inertia* which is generally ascribed to it by modern philosophers. Thus it appears that atoms, possessing powers of repulsion and attraction, constitute the substance of this celebrated theory of natural philosophy; which, however simple and short it may appear to be, leads to many important and wonderful consequences.

After stating, agreeably to the above-mentioned theory, that matter may be conceived to consist of atoms infinitely small, balanced between attractive and repelling powers, Dr. M. thus proceeds:

"Of these atoms themselves, it will be remembered, we know nothing but from their effects and properties. Their essence is beyond our researches, and their infinite smallness renders it impossible for us to examine them either by touch or by sight. From their attractions and repulsions, which are all we know about them, we have been able to class them according to their similitudes; and judging from these, there do not at present appear to be more than between sixty and seventy sorts of uncompounded atoms in the whole fabric of our globe and its atmosphere. The manner of our becoming acquainted with the various properties of these atoms is entirely by analysis, and quite experimental."

"The atoms of matter are so constituted as to attract each other, and to combine in an endless variety. Observation, however, has taught, that there are certain combinations more frequent than others; as for instance, those of metals with phlogiston, and of acidifiable bases with oxygen, and of gaseous bases with caloric. It has been judged proper to express these and some other common forms of bodies at the heads of the great divisions of the chart, and to mark, in the spaces

below those, the different composition of natural and artificial bodies, as far as they were known.

" For the purpose of exhibiting these advantageously they are distributed under nine heads:

" 1. The abstract names of such atoms as are simple and uncompounded, or, in the present state of our knowledge, are considered so. These appellatives are nouns, expressive not of the respective families of atoms in any condition observable by us, but of that pure and abstract state in which the understanding may conceive it possible for them to exist.

" 2. The names of primary atoms when combined with phlogiston; which phlogiston, as herein understood, means that kind of atoms which form the basis of inflammable air or hydrogenous gas, and no other kind.

" 3. The terms employed to express the state of dry fusion, or the condition of bodies melted without the aid or intervention of water. This is the condition of bodies whose atoms are considerably separated by anticrouon, the repelling principle, or what has been denominated caloric, though not sufficiently to evaporate them.

" 4. The names given to atoms so far repelled by anticrouon or caloric as to form gases or permanently elastic fluids. This is a state which rarely if at all exists, but which is necessary to be expressed in order the better to explain their states in the eighth column, when combined with water.

" 5. The names and terms under the fifth title are intended to express the state of *dry* oxyd and acid. In this form bodies seldom or never exist (except metallic calces), on account of their very strong attraction for moisture. But this condition of *dry* oxyds and acids was necessary to be expressed for the sake of giving a better idea of their modifications by water in the two next columns.

" 6. Names and terms expressive of that condition of atoms when, after much repulsion by anticrouon or caloric, and attraction by oxygen, the compound is rendered liquid by water. This applies to acids in their ordinary and fluid state, and to all solutions of bodies in water.

" 7. This title denotes the condition of certain atoms, which exist in the form of gas, combined with a portion of water, and sometimes with oxygen. In this are included all the acids and alkalies when rarified to the vaporific state, as well as all gases or aëriform fluids.

" 8. Atoms, after combination with oxygen into oxyds and acids, combined with other bodies; as happens to acids in their junction with earths, alkalies and metals, to form the very numerous order of neutral salts.

" 9. As the preceding column contained the acidified sub-

stances and their combinations, the present includes acidifiable substances, and some others in connection with substances not acidifiable and not forming neutral salts. Among other things, metallic ores and alloys of metals belong to this division."

The reader will doubtless observe, that of the foregoing forms of bodies, placed by Dr. M. as heads of the great divisions of his chart, the second, third, and fifth, are offered as additions to the chart of the French Academicians.

Dr. M. proposes to substitute the term *anticrouon* for *caloric*, *phlogiston* for *hydrogen*, and *septon* for *azote*.

His reasons for preferring the term *anticrouon* to *caloric* are as follow:

"Anticrouon, το αντικρουον, is the neuter termination of the active participle of the present tense, from the verb αντικρουω, to repel or keep at a distance. It is intended to express the principle or agent which produces repulsion among the atoms of matter: and as repulsion always exists among the constituent element of bodies, the repelling principle would always seem to be there. In many cases we can ascertain its presence by our sensations, by instruments and machines; and we know, that, according to the force or intensity of it, may a solid body undergo mere expansion, or be diluted to a liquid or melted state, or be repelled so powerfully as to become volatile or to rise in vapour. A word which expressed all these effects, or rather the influence by which such effects were produced, has a happy operation upon the mind, by suggesting to it invariably the principal modifications of matter in which it is instrumental. It was stated in the preliminary remarks, that the atoms of which bodies consisted, did not come into *perfect contact* under any circumstances in which we were acquainted with them, because there was repulsive agency among them powerful enough to prevent it. This repulsion has, by some philosophers, been supposed to inhere in the atoms themselves, and to be a part of their nature; while others ascribed it to a foreign agent introduced among them. However the fact may be, this we know for certain, that when, from the solar rays, from culinary heat, or the fire of a furnace, the repelling principle, or anticrouon, is introduced among the particles of any body, it increases the common repulsion existing there, and, if carried far enough, will evaporate and dissipate them. Since, therefore, repulsion, as far as we are acquainted with it, in bodies considerably heated, is occasioned by anticrouon, it is fairly presumable, that, in other cases, where its effects are less obvious to us, as in their ordinary and low temperatures, a more mo-

derate action of the same principle imparts to their component atoms their common or ordinary rate of repulsion. We know of no state wherein there is an absolute and total privation of caloric or anticrouon, and of course we know not of any condition of bodies wholly exempt from its repulsive power. Anticrouon, then, the repeller, the repelling principle, or the principle of repulsion, seems, upon strict examination, universally to produce separation or dilatation among the atoms of bodies after its introduction into them. And this idea is more simple than the supposition of one repelling power inherent in the atoms themselves, and another as an inseparable property of caloric.

"Among the effects of anticrouon upon sentient beings, as man, is a sensation called heat; and this name has been very generally used also to signify, besides the sensation, the agent causing the sensation. There would, for this reason, be great impropriety in retaining, for philosophical purposes, the word 'heat,' which denotes both the stimulus which excites the sensation, and the sensation excited. But there is a more serious objection than this: neither the term heat, nor any of its derivatives, express chemical or physical qualities. They signify only *one* of the various modes by which anticrouon, or the principle of repulsion, operates; to wit, the sensation it excites when moderately acting on the human organ of touch; but there are numberless gradations of repulsion among the atoms of natural bodies, which produce no acute sensation at all upon it. And when the human skin is acted upon by some of the lower degrees of it, the effect wrought is not called *heat*, but *cold*. Hence it appears, that the sensation of *heat*, which gives a term that tinctures all this part of philosophy, is very limited even in a sentient being; and two words, with opposite meanings, are introduced into all discussions, and are unavoidably, by these means of association, brought to mind. To show how improper the word heat, or caloric, or calorific, is, we need but to recollect that the principle so named existed before man existed to feel it; and may continue to operate upon more durable things, when the race of man shall be no more. The word 'fire' is also improper, as it signifies merely another mode by which anticrouon acts, that is, in the decomposition of inflammable substances, with an extrication of sensible heat and light. The most obvious and extensive effect of this sort of atoms being repulsive, their generic name ought to be derived from this property, and to express it. Wherever the word was pronounced, we should think of this predominating operation of it upon all matter, without the needless incumbrance of words, and their ideas and associations, derived from human feelings.

Thus *dilatation* might be the common name to express the effect of anticrouon on hard and fixed substances, as the metals; *expansion*, to signify an enlargement of volume in the same or similar bodies, when melted; *evaporation*, the conversion of fixed substances to airs or vapours; *heat*, when affecting the nerves of a sentient being in a particular manner; *fire*, when acting on a combustible substance, &c. By modelling the language in this manner, anticrouon, or the repelling principle, would always be presented to the mind; and the heating effect on man and other creatures, instead of being incessantly obtruded on the memory, would be occasionally brought up when that particular effect of anticrouon was under consideration. But as those effects of repulsion called *heat* and *fire* are most familiar to man, they have been most commonly introduced into discourse and writing, not only about *sentient* bodies and *combustible* substances, but have been applied to those which possess neither feeling nor inflammability. The phenomena of anticrouon have therefore been confusedly stated, and some incongruities have clouded the subject. If the earth is to be reserved for destruction by fire, the elements to be melted with a fervent heat, and the works that are therein to be burned up, all that is necessary to be conceived for the accomplishment of such a dissolution of the fabric of nature, is a mere abolition of the power of attraction among the atoms, or an increase of repellancy, whereby the existing coherence may be overcome. This destruction of the compages of matter is the counterpart of that process which, during the time of its organiztion, drew its atoms together. And the same providence which, by a predominance of attractive power, organized the world, can, by simply augmenting the repulsive power (anticrouon or fire), instantly disorganize it. And this sentiment, so understood, is as agreeable to correct philosophy as to sound theology.

"Thus it appears that anticrouon, or the repelling power, is incessantly present in all the substances with which we are acquainted. Being the universal cause of repulsion in the atoms of which bodies consist, there is an impossibility of conceiving their present constitution without taking it into consideration: and therefore, as indispensibly necessary to the existence of all the modifications of matter, *anticrouon* the repeller, instead of caloric the heater, is placed at the head of the list."

He considers *phlogiston* as a more proper term than *hydrogen*, for the following reasons:

"The third assemblage of atoms is that which, in its aggregate capacity, is called *phlogiston*. This word, το φλογιστον,

which is one of the best imagined in the whole nomenclature, has been rejected by the French and all their imitators, and, I think, unreasonably and improperly. It means all those atoms in bodies which *burn with flame or blaze.* This quality distinguishes them from atoms of carbone, which, if pure, burn indeed, but without any blaze whatever. It is the basis of fire-damp or inflammable air, and enters largely into the ordinary composition of sulphur, phosphorus and metals, giving to them the power of burning *with flame.* Phlogiston is a plentiful ingredient in animal and vegetable bodies, and evidently enters into the composition of water; these being all capable of exhibiting blaze as they burn. From its being a constituent part of water, it has been called hydrogen, or the water-getter, and is distinguished by that name in all the modern books. But as generic names ought to be taken from the most obvious quality which any assemblage of atoms possesses, and as the exhibition of blaze is a more glaring appearance than the formation of water, the former deserves the preference in giving a title to the genus."

Septon is proposed to be substituted for *azote,* on account of the following considerations:

"The fourth group of atoms is denominated by the generic word *Septon.* They enter into the composition of several parts of organized matter, and wherever they are found they give to it the quality of leanness (the state which is not oily or fat) during life, and of rapid corruption after death. Certain vegetables contain septon, which they either derive from the atmospheric air which passes through their vessels, or from the manure and nutrimental substance surrounding their roots. When they contain it they are found to approach the chemical qualities of animals. By the aid of septon, potatoes, cabbages, wheat, tobacco, and other plants have been observed to grow with great luxuriance; but, at the same time, when overdosed with it, they become rank and ill-flavoured. Millers observe that wheat, for example, raised on fields manured with the refuse-matter and putrid nastiness of the streets of New-York, is uncommonly offensive as it comes from between the stones which reduce it to meal: and such vegetable productions are very prone to corrupt. When they putrefy, the septon escapes, commonly with anticrouon, in the form of septous gas. But it does not always go off in that manner; for sometimes it appears to form a chemical union with oxygen, and after that, being dilated with caloric and blended with water, to exist in the states of septic oxyd, septic acid, and septic acid gas. In the condition of septous air it possesses no vital properties, nor any that are directly nox-

ious. Hence that air has been called *azotic*, or lifeless gas, and its basis *azote*, or non-vital; and is so distinguished in most of the books. Much has been said of the injurious effects of vegetable putrefaction, as if all vegetable bodies were noxious as they rotted. But this is not correct; for the greater part of the sub-acid fruits, as grapes, apples, &c. afford no unhealthy air by corruption; and the like observation applies to olives, lint-seed, and other oily substances. Vapours directly injurious seem to proceed only from such plants, or their parts, as contain septon; and then only when it becomes active by oxygenation. *Oxygenated septon*, which seems to be the very matter that gives a pestilential taint to the air, differs from *atmospheric air* in this, that, in the former, septon and oxygen are chemically united base to base, while in the latter their bases have no chemical connection, but, volatized separately by anticrouon, their particles float through each other uncombined, like globules of oil and water agitated together. Septous and oxygenous gases, in their uncombined state, constitute a wholesome atmosphere; in their connected state, an unwholesome or pestilential one."

ART. IX. *The Sword of the Lord, and of Gideon. By a Witness of Jesus.* 18mo. pp. 117. *Printed for the Author.* 1801.

SUCH a singular title will probably prepare the mind of the reader for a work not less singular in its character. And, accordingly, he who peruses these pages will find as curious a mixture of piety with enthusiasm, and of just moral and religious exhortation, with wild, disgusting, and ludicrous raving, as can easily be met with. It is really to be lamented, that so much excellent and important truth should be connected with so considerable a portion of unmeaning rant.

This little volume is made up of four *themes* (as the author expresses himself), or discourses, somewhat in the form of sermons. The *first* is on the *General Judgment;* the *second* on the *Nature and Duration of Hell Torments;* the *third* on the *Character and Benefits of the Redeemer;* and the *fourth* contains a general and animated exhortation to various descriptions of sinners, to *repent* and *reform*. On each of these subjects much is said of a sober and rational kind, and which every friend to religion must approve; but that part of the composition which deserves this character, is so frequently broken in upon by the absurdities of a weak and en-

thusiastic mind, that the impression received from the whole is far from being favourable either to the understanding of the author, or the cause of which he appears an advocate.

The following *address*, by way of preface, affords a very good specimen both of the diction and spirit of the work.

"Time grows old. The dread majesty of the heavens arises to shake terribly the earth. The day is near that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, and them that do wickedly, shall be as stubble. Suddenly shall he take them away, both living and in wrath; for my ears have fearfully heard, that our God rides on careering whirlwinds, and the devouring pestilence rages before him. *The hour of his judgments is come. He that is holy, let him be holy still. Say ye to the righteous, that it shall be well with him;* for in the kingdom of my Father and my God shall *he shine as the brightness of the firmament, as the stars for ever and ever.*

"Reader! what is thy wisdom worth? I would not waste a wish upon it, unless it is fledged for eternity. Folly burrows in the earth, and cries, 'away with these soaring religionists; I am at home; let my wishes creep.' A wise man said, that '*though a fool be brayed with a pestle in a mortar among wheat, yet will not his folly depart from him.*' Such are the baits of infidelity—such are the sensual—such are they who lay up treasure upon earth, and seek that honour which comes from man. These hate God: consistently with this enmity, God is not in all their thoughts: were it possible, they would sweep his existence from immensity.

"What!' says the deist, 'hate God my Creator? shocking thought!' The foolishness of folly is to think itself wise. (God despises the infidel's reasoning pride, and considers him as a mere pretender to wisdom). Wisdom! wisdom is ashamed of him. Wisdom teaches men to be wise for their greatest interests—the interests of their never-dying souls—and for the longest duration, even for interminable eternity. But the infidel despises instruction, and most preposterously sets out his career to another world in the face of the greatest imprudence imaginable: for if he is wrong he is ruined for ever; whereas, if the claims of the Religion of Jesus are vain, he runs no risk in embracing it: he can die at last like a beast. Let a beast die like a beast; for me, I am a man; glory to God for my existence; to the dear Lord Jesus for my redemption! Infidelity is a foolish thing, a bold thing, a wicked thing, with little pleasure in this world above a brute's enjoyment, and without hope of future happiness. Like a mushroom it springs up in the darkness of human depravity,

from the rank soil of hearts unholy, nor dies but at the rising of the sun of righteousness.

"But my reader despises the name of infidelity—he claims to be a christian. Of course, then, my christian reader, thou art not a worker of iniquity. There are that call themselves christians, who wear the vile uniform of the children of the devil; some openly wicked, whose foreheads cannot blush; and some who, in secret, love forbidden things; but the spirit and genius of the religion of Jesus is totally repugnant to all sin in heart and life, and tends to its entire destruction. He, therefore, who is born of God, committeth not sin: he who committeth sin is of the devil. Here *the children of God are manifest*, and *the children of the devil*. Hence it is, my dear reader, I draw the conclusion for thee: *thou* sayest, 'I am a christian;' I therefore say again, 'thou art not a worker of iniquity, *open* or *concealed*.' But O! if thy conscience *laughs* my conclusion out of countenance, be assured that, without repentance, the vengeance of eternal fire awaits thee—thy damnation slumbers not! A worker of iniquity! and a christian! O sacred name of christian profaned! That name which now thou dost impiously profane will one day grind thee to powder. *Then will I profess unto them*, says Jesus, *I never knew you; depart from me ye workers of iniquity.*

"Still you have a charitable persuasion of God, that he will not finally be as good as his word, and send them who live in sin to inevitable hell. Some loop-hole, some evasive weakness, some insincerity in his declarations there must be, through which unholy christians may escape.

"I charge you before God, ye elect precious! who, having received grace to be faithful, walk worthy of God in love and purity, that ye wrest from the unhallowed lips of false brethren the unchanging attributes of *him who sees us*, nor suffer his immaculate holiness to be blasphemed! Dare they make our glorious God to speak that which is not true? Will they rob him of sincerity (I tremble while I speak), and strengthen the hands of the wicked, whom his soul abhors? Will they people the pure regions of immortal bliss and glory with souls more foul and ugly than deformity's own self! No, no; *Without holiness no man shall see the Lord!* With more than ten thousand trumpets sound, the glorious declaration reverberates through earth and heaven, and trembles all around the gloomy regions of the damned! It is fixed as heaven's perpetual pillars! It must be so—or else there were no God, no happiness, no heaven. Let every man become a liar, and his lips be sealed with God's eternal truth.

"The inquiry arises, 'What kind of a man is the author?' The author was once a wicked man, *dead in trespasses and*

sins. He is now *born of God*, and uniformly works righteousness from a principle of love to God; (such is the long suffering love of him who hath received a sinner to mercy!) The spirit of glory and of God now rests upon him; and, marshalled in the train of the *King of Kings* and *Lord of Lords*, as a witness of Jesus, he proclaims that dread *name, the Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, long suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity, transgression and sin; and that will by no means clear guilty impenitence.* Be it therefore known to you, O ye inhabitants of the city of New-York, and of the United States, that the voice of that fearful name, the Lord our God, proclaims from on high, prepare! If you repent of your sins; if you turn to God, and do those things which please him; if you believe on Jesus with your hearts unto righteousness, you secure all that a God of love can give, to make you lovely in the beauties of holiness, and happy for ever. Despise his call, and you have every thing to fear. Be not deceived—*he who sows the wind shall reap the whirlwind.*

"*O Lord—thou God of Asa, it is nothing with thee to help, whether with many, or with them that have no power. Help! O Lord our God! for we rely on thee, and in thy name we go against this multitude: O Lord, thou art our God, let not a man prevail against thee!*"

Though the author's name is withheld from the title-page, he has subscribed it to his preface. It is J. P. Barney. We believe he is a layman, and an inhabitant of New-York. Farther than this we are altogether uninformed.

ART. X. *The National "Barley-Cake," or the "Rock of Offence" into a "Glorious Holy Mountain:" in Discourses and Letters. By* David Austin, *A. M. late Resident Minister at Elizabeth-Town; Author of the "Downfall of Mystical Babylon;" Editor to the "American Preacher;" Promoter of the "Concert in Prayer;" and, to his own Astonishment, and that of many others, struck in Prophecy, under the Style of the "Joshua" of the American Temple. Submitted.* 8vo. pp. 80. *Washington, District of Columbia.* Way & Groff. 1802.

IT is presumed few of our readers need to be informed that the writer of this pamphlet has been long distinguished as a religious visionary, or a madman. His extravagant and absurd vagaries have been too numerous and too eccentric to

leave any one in doubt of his being under the influence either of intellectual derangement, of a distempered imagination, or of moral depravity. To which of these characters he is entitled, we shall not undertake to pronounce.

Fifty-eight pages of the present work are filled with five discourses, delivered by the author in the city of Washington. They are on different subjects; the leading features of which we should attempt to analyze, were there not such a confused mixture of mystical jargon, of palpable nonsense, and of motley politics, with sober religious truth, that most readers would probably esteem it an imposition to have many of our pages filled with such miserable stuff.

In the second discourse, entitled *The Mystery broken, or the Vail taken away*, we meet with the following passage:

"Washington died, and the labour of his hand was left to the winds and to the storms. The violence continued, and the waters launched the porter from the door. John Adams, John Adams fled before the earthquake of Jehovah's power. The sword of the land was "upon his right hand and upon his right eye." He was silent, because he knew the hand of God was in the matter. It had been noted to him that he must leave the chair, in date, before he left New-England for the seat of government.

"He filled his four years, and the tempest that arose left a straw in his place. Of the destinies of this straw we need not speak. They are on record; and whoever keeps a steady eye upon the order of things, and particularly on the chain of events as they arise in the field of the American temple, will ultimately discover, that the straw left was but a straw. The power that is, knowing nothing of God, of Providence, of the Redeemer, and of his designs in this matter, is incapable to advance the work. It is stagnant! it is retrograde! Like a ship at sea, lost as to its observations, disordered as to its compass, torn as to its sails, tried as to her upper works, and a wreck below—she is at the mercy of the storm. The winds continue to blow, and the helmsman stands aghast. The seamen are gone below, and wait, in awful silence, the fate of the ship. The heavens lower; the clouds are thick and black, and the "day-star" is not seen. No man can tell what reason, philosophy or republicanism is about to do with this ship. These tides of thinking and of acting have, indeed, an agency; but it is not up to the agency of God. His designs lie in the track of our national ark. He is determined to pass through the portals of his American Israel, that he may pour his benedictions from our national Zion,

upon the hills of the nations. The pacific design takes a national form. It is not now content to visit the cottages of the poor, but would speak in power to the powerful. It would call the nations to rest under 'the vine and fig-tree' of the succeeding dispensation. It will carry with it bible-authority, and will depend on bible-power. The work hath been begun and carried on upon these principles from the beginning. Though the agents may not have known by whom they were employed, nor in what the begun design should issue, still they have kept on their way. Like Cyrus of old, they have been girded by an unseen and by an unknown hand; but having received wages by the way, it is improper that philosophy, that revolution, that republicanism, should now call the temple their own. The property is the Lord's. The nation is the Lord's. It is the first finished workmanship that hath come forth from the sea of national convulsion. The 'tempestuous sea' is not to continue for ever. It is to be allayed by heaven's controuling hand. This hand will be reached forth in the order of his providence. There needs no more miracles, no more prophecy, to give authenticity to heaven's revealed will. It hath been authenticated long ago. The lines of the design are on prophetic record. And the wheels of providence have given a perpetual testimony to the original inscription. If men have studied the predictions of men more than the revealed will of God, it is not to be supposed that their ignorance shall make his knowledge void, or that their will shall overthrow his design. Firm as the base of the Assyrian image stood, it hath been shaken. It totters still. If it gain a moment's breath, it is but that the revolutionary stone, appointed for its overthrow, may renew its strength. So the angel of desolating judgments turns aside to whet his sword. The stone is the heavier, and the sword carries the keener edge."

We shall only present our readers with one more quotation from the *third* discourse.

"God bless John Adams and the American people! Heaven make the commencing operations of pacific design now opening, as effectual in an example of pacification, as the fire of our altar hath been unquenchable, in bringing on the introductory steps of 'the battle of the great day of God Almighty!'

"John Adams is next seen President of the United States. He is placed, in the order of the great Architect, as doorkeeper to the national temple. 'Thou shalt call his name John, for he shall go before.' He stood firmly to his post, and having no previous notices of the manner in which the master of the house would demand entrance, he listened not

to the tappings of a stripling from the sheepfolds of Bethlehem, who, with a sling and stone in his hand, begged permission to bring the head of Goliah into the camp of Israel.

"Probably, thinking that more valiant men were already in the field, and that it was presumption to think of such an exploit by such feeble means, Mr. Adams firmly kept his shoulder to the door. The valiant of his choice left off their arrows, or rather brandished about their blunted sword, and Goliah still wears his head. The waters rose upon the national mount; the swell was too heavy for the chair; and he that sat in it, like Eli, when the ark of God was taken, 'fell backwards.' 'So let thine enemies perish, O God!'

"The kingdom is still 'the Lord's,' and he hath yet to show himself 'Governor among the nations.'

"A new era now begins. With the opening of this new century expands God's vast design. In the wreck of the last administration is seen a finishing off of what may be stiled the dispensation of the federal temple. This was the first regular edifice that the order of providence had plucked out of the fire of prophetic indignation. It hath received a national mould, a political casting, but the work is yet unfinished. It is still to be attached to the kingdom of the great Redeemer, who, as a bridegroom, hath determined to espouse the nation as a chaste bride unto himself. Preparation for this is seen in the texture of the constitution. No order of religious name hath any pre-eminence in this house. God will give to his people a name and a place, and Zion shall soon be called 'a city of truth.'

"Our 'earth and our heavens' are now waiting before God for the pointings of his design. All the world is looking for the secret of God, which will have its commencing display with us. The star is not to be found; nor need it be sought in the remoter regions of the east or of the west. From the north, nor from the south, shall the ships of the nation, or of Zion, bring home knowledge of its rays. Its influences, in its preparatory risings, are in the national convulsions which now exist, and in the dawning of pacific designs displaying themselves in these abodes. On the walls of the American fabric will be seen to stand the lamp of light, which shall give to the nations day. From the city of Washington will go forth the commencing streams, which form the 'sea of glass, mingled with fire.'

"The scene will unfold itself as the waters swell. Let the labour of this capitol, and the work of the city advance. 'Nations shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.' 'For the kingdom is the Lord's, and he is Governor among the nations!'

The sermons are followed by eight letters to the following gentlemen: *John Adams, late President of the United States; Samuel W. Dana, Member of Congress from Connecticut; Rev. John Rodgers, D. D. one of the Ministers of the Presbyterian Church in New-York; Jonathan Dayton, Member of Congress from New-Jersey; Benjamin Talmage, Member of Congress from Connecticut; James Hillhouse, Member of Congress from Connecticut; Levi Lincoln, Attorney-General of the United States;* and *M. Van Polanen, Minister-Resident from the Batavian Republic.*

These letters, like the sermons, are evidently productions of a disordered mind. Those to Mr. *Adams* and Mr. *Dana* are truly as curious specimens of the language of a man who considers himself "struck in prophecy," as we remember to have seen.

ART. XI. *A Stroke at the Branch; containing Remarks on Times and Things. By* John Leland. 8vo. pp. 24. *Hartford.* Babcock. 1801.

OUR readers will be ready to fear, from this whimsical title, that we are about to introduce to their notice another visionary or fanatic. The present pamphlet, however, is of a very different character from those announced in the preceding articles. It is almost wholly political in its nature; and though the author is by no means remarkable either for his profundity or his wisdom, yet he seems to be in his senses.

Mr. Leland is a determined opponent of the late federal administration, and a warm friend to the present. In all the leading measures of the former he thinks there was evident hostility to republican principles, and the welfare of our country; while those of the latter are viewed by him, in general, as wise and salutary. We cannot undertake to follow Mr. L. in his remarks and reasonings on this subject; but this is little to be regretted, as he offers nothing new or ingenious, and is evidently a crude and superficial thinker, as well as a very inaccurate and inelegant writer. As to the truth or falshood of his political opinions, we pronounce no judgment.

Mr. L. writes like a man attached to religion: and while he is opposed to religious establishments in every form, he thinks the influence of christianity on the individuals who

embrace it, and through them on society in general, most benign and salutary.

This writer, we believe, is a clergyman of the Baptist persuasion, living in the State of Massachusetts.

ART. XII. *Proofs of the real Existence and dangerous Tendency of Illuminism: Containing an Abstract of the most interesting Parts of what Dr. Robison and the Abbe Barruel have published on this Subject, with collateral Proofs and General Observations. By* Seth Payson, *A. M.* 12mo. pp. 290. *Charlestown (Mass.)* Etheridge. 1802.

THE *Proofs of a Conspiracy, &c.* by Professor Robison, and *Memoirs of Jacobinism*, by Abbe Barruel, having been republished, and extensively circulated in this country, the subject must now be familiar to those who have had curiosity or leisure for such inquiries. In whatever point of view it may be considered, the subject is certainly an interesting one to such as are not inattentive to the causes and events which distinguish the history of the present age.

The author of the present performance remarks, in his preface, that great efforts have been made to discredit the existence of *illuminism*, and that "a general stupor has taken place of that alarm occasioned by the first discovery of this infernal combination." "Recent events," he observes, "have confirmed his belief, that a systematical attempt is now in operation to undermine the foundation of every religious, moral and social establishment." To place this impending danger in a conspicuous point of view—to collect the evidence of the fact, diffused through expensive and voluminous tracts, and arising from a variety of circumstances—and to comprise the whole in a single volume, easy of purchase, and intelligible to every reader, appears to be the design of the present publication.

What those recent events are to which Mr. P. alludes—whether the same as mentioned by Robison and Barruel, or other facts discovered by the author—whether they have taken place in Europe or in our own country, we do not clearly understand, and shall not, therefore, hazard a conjecture concerning them; but leave it to every reader to draw his own conclusion from the statements and reasonings to be found in the work.

The authorities on which Mr. Payson chiefly relies for the

veracity of his narration, and the justness of his inferences, are *Robison* and *Barruel.* In his *preliminary observations*, he offers evidence in vindication of the character of the former from aspersions which have appeared in several gazettes published in the United States. We shall extract a brief sketch of the life of the Scottish professor, derived, it is said, from a respectable source in Edinburgh.

"The father of the professor, a respectable country gentleman, intended him for the church, and gave him eight years of an university education at Glasgow. Preferring a different profession, he accepted an offer of going into the navy, with very flattering prospects. He was appointed mathematical instructor to his Royal Highness the Duke of York. In that office he accordingly entered the navy in February, 1759, being that day twenty years old. He was present at the siege of Quebec. With the late Admiral Knowles he was particularly connected, and his son, afterwards Capt. Knowles, one of the most promising young officers in the British navy, was committed to his charge.

"In 1761 he was sent by the Board of Admiralty to make trial of Harrison's Watch at Jamaica. At the peace of 1763 he returned to college. In 1764 he was again appointed by the Admiralty to make trial of Harrison's improved Watch at Barbadoes; but his patron, Lord Anson, being dead, and the conditions not such as pleased him, he declined the employment, returned again to college, and took under his care the only remaining son of his friend, Sir Charles Knowles. This son is the present Admiral Sir Charles Knowles. In 1770 Sir Charles was invited by the Empress of Russia to take charge of her navy. He took Mr. Robison with him as his secretary. In 1772 Mr. Robison was appointed superintendant of the education in the Marine Caslet Corps, where he had under his direction about 500 youth, 350 of whom were sons of noblemen and gentlemen, and 26 masters in the different studies. The Academy being burnt, Mr. Robison, with his pupils, removed to an ancient palace of Peter the Great at Cronstadt, a most miserable, desolate island, where, finding no agreeable society, he availed himself of the first opportunity of quitting so unpleasant a situation, and accepted an invitation from the magistrates of Edinburgh to the Professorship of Natural Philosophy in the university in that city, which ranks among the first universities in the world. To this very honourable office he acceded in August, 1774, and from that time continued his lectures, without interruption, till 1792, when illness obliged him to ask for an assistant. To enable him to give such a salary to his assistant as would

make the place worth the acceptance of a man of talents, the king was pleased to give him a pension of £100 a year. After five years confinement by a painful disorder, he resumed his chair in 1797.

" In 1786 he was elected a member of the Philosophical Society at Philadelphia, of which Mr. Jefferson is President; and in 1797 a member of the Royal Society of Manchester. In 1799, after the publication of his book, the University of Glasgow, where he received his education, conferred on him, unsolicited, the honour of a Doctor's degree in Law, in which, contrary to the usual custom in these cases, is given a very particular and flattering account of his nine years studies in that university. This peculiar evidence of esteem and respect was given in this way, in order that his diploma might have all the civil consequences which long standing could give. When he published his book, in 1797, he was Secretary of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. In April, 1800, without solicitation of a single friend, he was unanimously elected a foreign member (there are but six) of the Imperial Academy of Sciences at St. Petersburg (which, in point of reputation, is esteemed the third on the continent of Europe), in the room of the much lamented and highly celebrated Dr. Black. To prepare for the press, and superintend the publication of the chemical writings of this great man, required the ablest chemist in Great-Britain. This distinguished honour has been conferred on Professor Robison, who has undertaken this important work. This appointment, for which no man, perhaps, is more competent, together with the numerous learned and copious articles which he has furnished for the Encyclopædia Britannica, fully evince, that in reputation and solid learning he ranks among the first literary characters in Europe. Add to all this, *he sustains a* MORAL *character, so fair and unblemished, that any man may safely be challenged to lay any thing to his charge of which an honest man need be ashamed.*

" The following account of Professor Robison is from a work entitled ' Literary Memoirs of Living Authors of Great-Britain,' &c. in two volumes octavo, published in London, 1798, for R. Faulder.

' John Robison, Esq. M. A. Secretary to the Royal Society at Edinburgh, and Professor of Natural Philosophy in the University. Professor Robison is distinguished for his accurate and extensive knowledge, especially on subjects of science. He contributed to the Encyclopædia Britannica the valuable articles, Physics, Pneumatics, Præcession of the Equinoxes, Projectiles, Pumps, Resistance of Fluids, River, Roof, Rope making, Rotation, Seamanship, Signals, Sound, Specific Gravity, Statics, Steam, Steam-Engine, Strength of Materials,

Telescope, Tide, Articulating Trumpet, Variation of the Compass, and Water-Works, also Philosophy, in association with Dr. Gleig.

'In the autumn of the year 1797, Professor Robison published an octavo volume, entitled 'Proofs of a Conspiracy, &c.' This volume has been favourably received, and although too hasty a performance for a work of so much consequence, is well entitled, both from its subject and its authenticity, to the serious attention of every reader. It arrives at the same remarkable conclusion as the celebrated Memoirs of the Abbe Barruel, illustrating the history of Jacobinism, though the authors were perfectly unconnected with each other, and pursued their inquiries in very different ways. It has raised (we are sorry for such an appearance) a considerable clamour and enmity against the Professor; though it was written, we are fully convinced, from the best of motives. We cannot conclude this article without observing that the principles, and honest zeal, which Professor Robison has displayed upon this occasion, are highly creditable to him, and merit the warmest acknowledgments from society in general.'

"The following is an extract of a letter from one of the most respectable literary characters which Scotland has produced, dated March, 1800. The writer of this letter is now in America. I have not his leave to mention his name.

'Professor Robison's character is so well established among those who know him best, that it would be ridiculous, at Edinburgh, to call in question his veracity or ability. *I had read many of his authorities in the German originals before his book was published;* and the first notice I received of it was in the preface to Dr. Erskine's sketches of ecclesiastical history, where you will see the honourable testimony that he gives Mr. Robison, and the great expectation that he had from his publication.'

Some remarks are added on the character of Barruel, which is stated to be fair, and his credibility unimpeachable; and some strictures are made on the observations of Professor Ebeling, of Hamburg, concerning Robison and the *illuminees.* We are inclined to believe that the German Professor has misconceived the motives of Robison, and that his character, which here appears to be that of a learned and moral man, has been misrepresented.

The work is divided into chapters, in which are considered, *the actors, existence, object, and secret of the conspiracy—the means of the conspirators—the progress of the conspiracy; triumph and death of the chiefs—occult masonry—illuminism; its origin, actors, and different grades—code of the illu-*

minees; the mysteries and government of the order—the discovery of the sect—German Union—French Revolution—summary view of illuminism—objections considered—collateral proofs and general observations in relation to Europe—the same in relation to the United States.

Most of these chapters, it will be perceived, are an abstract of the volumes of Robison and Barruel: the author has occasionally interspersed observations and notes of his own.

Mr. P. rouses the attention, and excites the apprehension of his readers, by the following introductory remarks:

"Phenomena of the most astonishing nature have, within a few years past, arrested the attention of mankind. Manners, and the state of society, have undergone a revolution which has appeared to extinguish, in many, every natural affection, and to transform the most civilized and polished, into the most ferocious of men. The best established principles of natural and revealed religion, and the very foundations of moral and social duty, obligations never before controverted, have been attacked by an host of enemies. A flood of infidelity has deluged the greater part of the christianized world, threatening to sweep away every vestige of Christianity. And may it not be said, almost without a metaphor, that by an horrid Anti-Christian regeneration, a nation of Atheists have been born in a day?

"These are plain facts; and they demand the most serious attention of mankind."

As sober men, and for the honour of religion and human nature, we must say that Mr. P. has here indulged himself in needless exaggeration.—That infidelity has rapidly increased, particularly in France, of late years; and that irreligion has erected its bold and impious front in that unhappy country, is indeed, a melancholy truth. But that a whole nation, or any considerable portion of so numerous a people, have become *atheists*, is what no man who has attentively observed the nature and disposition of the human mind, or the influence of true religion, will believe. Indeed, the writings of Robison and Barruel show that the most daring and confident of the conspirators have not been able wholly to eradicate all sense of the existence of a Supreme Being. A madman or a fool, like *Anacharsis Cloots*, might, in a moment of presumption, avow his atheism. But, in a serious investigation of facts, it is hardly proper to characterize a whole people by the effusions of a few daring and profligate individuals. Numerous instances of irreligion, vice and criminality the most horrid and abominable, may be selected from the history of the French revolution,

But is there not cause to believe, that they ought not to be received as specimens of the genuine character of the whole nation?

In a matter of so much consequence, a writer should be scrupulously correct in his representations, lest, if found exaggerated in one part, his adversaries may take advantage of the circumstance to lessen the credibility of his whole narration, and to weaken and destroy the effect of his argument.

"Sir," said Dr. SAMUEL JOHNSON, in 1775, "there is a great cry about infidelity, but there are, in reality, very few infidels. I have heard a person, originally a quaker, but now, I am afraid, a deist, say that he did not believe there were, in all England, above two hundred infidels."—In quoting this saying of that pious and learned writer, who, on all occasions, expressed his warm indignation at every attempt to undermine the christian faith and the religious institutions of society, we by no means intend to express our doubt of the growth and extent of infidelity since that time; but we mention it as an instance, among others, of the repugnance of that great moralist to admit for truth those general assertions, which men of warm tempers, or ardent imaginations, are too apt to make. This propensity to exaggerate whatever strongly interests our feelings or strikes our fancy, is so common among men, that it needs neither comment nor illustration to render it more obvious. In the laxity of conversation allowance is generally made for this disposition, but in writing, more exactness and caution are reasonably expected.

There is something so repugnant to the feelings, the hopes and wishes of man, something so cold, comfortless, and gloomy in *atheism*, that we are disposed to believe that very few men, whatever may be their occasional assertions, are real and fixed *atheists*. Of disbelievers in the doctrine of christianity, there is, we fear, in Europe and America, a large number. The pride of philosophy may support the minds of many of them; but the generality of mankind cannot long sustain themselves in scepticism; they will sooner or later seek repose and consolation in the arms of religion.

To confirm the veracity of Dr. Robison, a letter is inserted from a Major in the service of the King of Prussia to Dr. Robison, enclosing a copy of another written by Frederick.

"MY DEAR MAJOR HAMELBERG,

"The work which you have translated and communicated to me, with your letter of March 3d, exposes the pernicious tendency of all secret societies in the clearest light, and is

entitled to a considerable degree of merit with your countrymen. I, therefore, most willingly express my warmest satisfaction, and most sincere thanks, for the copy which has been transmitted to me, and I hereby announce my approbation of the work, as your affectionate king.

"FREDERICK WILLIAM.

"*Charlottenburg, July* 25, 1800."

"SIR,

"I have at last, after a long search, succeeded in my endeavours to obtain your valuable work on the secret societies, which was so thoroughly suppressed in *Germany*, that it was not possible to procure a copy of it. As soon as I obtained it, I communicated it to some friends, as much distinguished by their character as by their talents; who being all convinced of its excellence, persuaded me to translate it into German. As the whole merit of the work is yours, Sir, I feel it my duty to send you the enclosed answer from the king my master. And should you be of opinion that it will serve the good cause, you are at liberty to make any use of it which you may think proper. I think it necessary, Sir, to apprize you that I have added some notes, and some facts which have come within my knowledge, and which evidently prove (were any further proof required) *both the truth of your assertions, and the reality of the dangers* to which the sovereigns, as well as the regular governments are exposed wherever these societies are tolerated. I beg you will be convinced, Sir, of the distinguished consideration with which I have the honour to be, Sir, yours, &c.

"VON HAMELBERG."

"*Minden (Westphalia), July* 27, 1800."

Of the existence of such societies, or associations of individuals, having a community of opinions and seeking a common object, as they have been described by European writers, there can be little doubt. Whether their designs were so monstrous and abominable, their schemes so profound and comprehensive, or their power so extensive and alarming, as have been represented, are questions to be decided by every one from the evidence before him. At the distance we are from the scene of action, it would be difficult for us to pronounce decisively on the truth of the whole story. The evidence produced will make very different impressions on men of different characters and tempers. Some will receive it with the most unresisting credulity, some with a partial and doubtful assent, and others may reject it with obstinate disbelief.

Notwithstanding the strong assertions made in various pub-

lications in Europe, that *illuminism* has, since 1790, entirely ceased to exist, Mr. P. is of opinion, from the intelligence received from various sources concerning the state of German literature and science, that it is still in operation; that it extended to Ireland, and was the principle of union in that formidable association whose members were stiled *United Irishmen*, and who are said to have received contributions in money from some societies in the United States.

But it is in the charge of a conspiracy of *illuminees* existing in this country, made in the last two chapters of this volume, that our readers will find themselves most interested. The proofs adduced by Mr. P. in support of this charge are the mention made by Dr. Robison of some *masonic lodges of the illuminated* in America, and the result of the indefatigable researches on this subject, made by the Rev. Dr. Morse, and to be found in the *appendix* to his Fast Sermon of May 9, 1798.

The lodges alluded to are, one called *Wisdom*, instituted at Portsmouth, in Virginia, in 1786, consisting of 100 members, chiefly emigrants from France; two similar lodges, emanating from the Wisdom Lodge, one in Virginia and one in St. Domingo; a lodge called the Grand Orient of New-York; and another the Union, a French lodge, in the same city. From these *data* the following calculation is made:

"Admitting all these American lodges, individually, to contain an equal number of members with the lodge Wisdom, the calculation gives at that time, no less than 1700 agents of illuminism in America, in close connection and correspondence with each other, and with the Grand Orient at Paris, from which they received constant *illumination*; and we may add, acting under the influence of a society, which was the active soul and vital spring of those scenes of horror exhibited in France and other parts of Europe."

Further evidence is contained in a letter from a gentleman in Virginia (April, 1800) to Dr. Morse, stating his belief that the Portsmouth lodge, consisting chiefly of French refugees, was of the *modern masonry*, and did not hold fellowship with the *ancient masons;* and an extract from a masonic discourse of the Rev. John F. Ernst, of New-York, in which he guards his brethren against the *modern masons*, who, he observes, are gaining ground fast in America.

Mr. P. then asks, "Are these documents deserving no credit? Shall we renounce our reason because some men will not believe unless they have a sign from heaven? And, if true,

do they not afford just cause of alarm? Admitting this was a full discovery of the extent of illuminism in America at that time, and that, since that time, it has received no increase, which is far from being probable, is a body of *seventeen hundred* men, acting with the force of secret societies, and under the direction of a foreign power, compatible with the peace, quiet, and safety of this country? We need no longer wonder at the confidence the French Directory expressed in their *diplomatic skill* and influence in America, or the prevalence of the new philosophy, and the alarming change which has taken place here in the state of religion and morals. It is no longer surprising that every method has been adopted to excite opposition to the measures of the late administration of our government, to vilify our best characters, and to alienate the minds of the citizens from their rulers; or that native Americans have been compelled to yield their seats to foreigners. This affords an easy explanation of what, without this key, must appear mysterious—that a period, in which we have enjoyed all that men can enjoy of the blessings of a free and excellent government, attended with a degree of prosperity which has scarce its parallel in the history of mankind, has been a period of complaint, of tumult and insurrection. Nor is it unaccountable that we should hear it asserted, with the highest effrontery, that our greatest danger arises, not from France, from illuminism, or self-created societies, but from the tyranny of the clergy and from British influence. These are among the known arts of illuminism. Whoever has carefully observed its progress in Europe, will easily discern the features of the monster under all its concealments. It is an axiom in illuminism, upon which its disciples, both in Europe and America, have formed their practice, that the most egregious and absurd falshoods, if told with confidence, and confidently repeated, will at length gain credit and influence."

From conversation with those most acquainted with *freemasonry* in the city of New-York, we do not find any facts to warrant the conclusions here drawn as to the existence or number of illuminees. No person appears to know any thing of such a band of conspirators. But as secrecy is their grand principle, says Mr. P. no argument can be drawn from this want of knowledge of their existence or operations. We confess ourselves at a loss how to decide concerning things so wholly in the dark, and must indulge in some degree of scepticism on the subject.—*De non apparentibus et non existentibus eadem est ratio*, is a maxim of law which our author is so far from permitting to be applied to the sect of illuminees, that he

holds the reverse of the position, and infers their existence from their non-appearance.

We do not mean to assert, merely because we are ignorant of them, that there are no secret associations amongst us, linked together by a common spirit of enmity to the christian religion. The many bad and profligate men whom the political tempests of Europe have cast upon our shores, will naturally seek to strengthen themselves by union, and may, it is probable, be found in secret clubs. But, from the best information we can obtain, the masonic societies of New-York are not liable to the charge of being under this foreign influence of *illuminism*, and do not merit the injurious suspicions which have been raised against them.

Having stated the direct evidence of the conspiracy, Mr. P. mentions a variety of circumstances, chiefly of a political nature, which he thinks tend to strengthen his opinions. These are the conduct of Genet when Minister of France—Fauchet's *intercepted letter*—societies of United Irishmen—and a sentiment, which he is assured has been more than once advanced, "that we should never be free until the christian church was abolished:"—To which is added, some information contained in a letter from a respectable correspondent in Pennsylvania, giving an account of the celebration of Governor M'Kean's election, on which occasion an altar was erected to Liberty and Peace, and "an ox, adorned with garlands according to the pagan ritual," sacrificed before the altar, and its flesh distributed among the citizens; and of a proposition made to exhibit a view of *hell* in Ricket's circus in Philadelphia, for the diversion of the company, the execution of which was luckily prevented by the materials prepared taking fire and consuming the house.*

The author finds further illustration of his opinion concerning the prevalence of an *illuminating* conspiracy, in the avowed attachment of a numerous party in this country to France; in the uniform opposition which that party has maintained against the leading measures of the late administration;

* We are informed that this was no more than a representation of the well-known pantomime of *Don Juan*, so frequently exhibited on our theatres. The opera of *Blue Beard*, recently performed with so much applause, and which concludes with a personification of *Death*, who strikes the guilty bashaw, and descends with him *to the infernal regions*, is equally liable to such an objection.—We are sorry that circumstances so trivial should be so gravely introduced as *proofs* of illuminism, as they will only serve to cast ridicule on the subject.

in an over-weaning and jealous concern for the liberties of America; and in the violent censures cast upon the clergy of New-England. He considers illuminism and French influence as involving each other, and that the same evidence which proves that either of them has existed in America, proves that they do now exis..

Mr. P. apologizes for the introduction of politics, and disclaims any intention to implicate all who belong to what is called a French party, in the charge of being engaged in an anti-christian and anti-social conspiracy. Many of them he believes to be "sincere friends to religion, their country, and to mankind, but led, by a series of misrepresentations, to give their support to systems, which, if seen in their true nature and tendency, would excite their abhorrence." We are pleased with this proof of his candour; and we hope that there is, in reality, less ground for his apprehensions of illuminism amongst us than he has been induced to suppose.

Mr. P. concludes his work by a serious and sensible address to his fellow citizens, in which, among much sound and salutary advice for the direction of their religious, moral and political conduct, he recommends to his masonic brethren the dissolution or suspension of their lodges. This is a measure certainly meriting their consideration, but, we fear, too contrary to the prejudices and feelings of masons to be carried into execution.

Whatever may be thought of the proofs of illuminism here exhibited, it will be readily admitted that Mr. P. in this attempt to oppose its influence, has been actuated by pure and laudable motives, and an honest zeal, worthy of the cause he has espoused.

ART. XIII. *Considerations on the Government of the Territory of Columbia, No.* vii. *By* Augustus B. Woodward. 8vo. pp. 21. Snowden & *Co.* 1802.

IN a former Review (vol. i. p. 240) we took notice of a publication of Mr. Woodward under this title. The present pamphlet, which is connected with the same subject, is intended to demonstrate and urge the right of the Territory of Columbia to be admitted a member of the confederation, and to assume a distinct political character.

Mr. W. insists that the inhabitants of that district are entitled to a representation in the Federal Legislature, and to

the exercise of suffrage in the election of President and Vice-President of the United States.

The author's principles appear to be sound, and his reasoning is cogent. But we do not think him an engaging writer. His style is elevated, but so stiff, artificial and laboured, as to fatigue the attention of the reader. His propensity to introduce new words we have before had occasion to remark. In the present publication, however, we discover fewer instances of this kind than in his former writings. The words *collise*, *electrization*, and *vestiture*, are, among others, strange to us. If this gentleman can convince us that he has authority to plant new words in our language whenever his caprice or convenience suggests them, we may then, perhaps, permit him, without murmur, to proceed in culturing the English tongue in his own way; till then, however, we hope he will forgive us if we take the liberty to pluck them up without respect,

"As weeds that have no business there."

ART. XIV. *A New Gazetteer of the Eastern Continent; or a Geographical Dictionary: Containing, in Alphabetical Order, a Description of all the Countries, Kingdoms, States, Cities, Towns, Principal Rivers, Lakes, Harbours, Mountains, &c. &c. in Europe, Asia, Africa, and their Adjacent Islands. Carefully compiled from the best Authorities. By* Jedidiah Morse, *D. D. A. A. S. S. H. S. Author of the American Universal Geography, and American Gazetteer; and Rev.* Elijah Parish, *A. M. Illustrated with eighteen Maps. Designed as a second Volume to the American Gazetteer. Large* 8vo. *Charlestown (Mass.)* Etheridge. 1802.

WE have before had occasion to express our approbation of Dr. MORSE as a writer, and to commend his diligence and judgment as a compiler. While his labours are useful to his country, we have reason to believe, judging from the frequency of his publications, that they are profitable as well as honourable to himself; since few amongst us would have the courage to persevere in publication without some adequate remuneration for their toil. The success of Dr. M. owing, in a great degree, to the nature of the objects he has chosen, and the industry and vigour with which he has pur-

sued them, is peculiar and unprecedented in the "short and simple annals" of American literature.

The present volume is offered as a companion to the *American Gazetteer*, of which we have already given an account,* and completes the geographical description of the two great continents into which the earth is divided. We perceive, by the title-page, that another gentleman has been associated with Dr. M. in its compilation. The general design of the compilers is thus expressed in their preface:

"The expediency of a publication of this kind, in our own country, will be readily admitted by every genuine American. To traverse an ocean of a thousand leagues for our books on Geography, would be a partial relinquishment of our literary claims. It would imply what the friends of their country would reluctantly acknowledge. Indeed, real inconveniences, and serious evils would follow. The frequent eulogies of foreign authors on their own government, manners, and religion; their censures, and, perhaps, sarcasms, on the character, and government of the United States, interrupt the pleasure of the reader, powerfully tend to diminish his patriotism, and prevent improvement, which might have been obtained. It is, therefore, of great importance that books in common use should be written and published in our own country, and by native citizens, breathing the spirit of our national character, and friendly to our civil, literary, and religious institutions.

"It has not been an object with the compilers to inculcate opinions, nor was it consistent with the nature of this work; but they have been particular in their attention to places mentioned in scripture; to those especially, which have been the subjects of the prophecies. Their exact fulfilment, and the consequent authenticity of revelation, have been repeatedly noticed. Christianity has not been considered as an *opinion*. In the present state of human affairs, when an organized phalanx, scattered through the civilized world, are labouring to raze the foundations of SOCIAL ORDER, by subverting the Christian religion, they conceive it would have been a treacherous omission of duty, it would have been doing violence to their own feelings, to neglect this opportunity of speaking in favour of revelation.

"While employed in preparing this work for the press, no publication, which the compilers could command, adapted to their purpose, has been neglected. The names of a number of authors will be found annexed to different articles, as au-

* Monthly Magazine and American Review, vol. i. p. 126.

thorities for what is asserted, and as references for further information.

" A few sheets were printed before it was known that Damberger's Travels were a fiction, which will account for the appearance of his name, a few times, among the authorities.

" The compilers have endeavoured to comprise as much information in this volume as was consistent with perspicuity, and to proportion the size of the articles to their comparative importance. They hope it will prove entertaining and useful. A more complete list and description of places on the globe, they believe, will be found in this work, and in the American Gazetteer, which is to be considered as its *first* volume, than in any other of the kind.

" Recent events, which have happened in different places on the Eastern Continent and Islands, have been noticed, and the work *modernised* as far as correct information could be obtained.

" Under the article *Europe*, in the Appendix, the reader will find a compendium of the information, which has been lately received, relative to the present state of that quarter of the globe.

" As to names, spelt differently by learned men, the compilers have not presumed to fix a standard, but have generally followed the author from whom the information was taken."

In our review of a similar performance (vol. i. p. 286) we gave our opinion of the proper objects of a geographical treatise, and of those motley compilations which pass under the titles of *Geographical Grammars, Systems, and Gazetteers.* The works of Guthrie, Brooke, and their numerous followers, are now in such general use, that it would be thought injudicious to vary essentially from a plan which has been so long established. With knowledge strictly and purely geographical, readers now expect to find also, in a work denominated geographical, information concerning the laws, government, religion, policy, commerce, manners and customs which distinguish the various communities and collections of people who inhabit the earth; and the numerous and diversified productions of nature and art which lie within the reach of observation.

The compilers of the present volume seem aware of the objection, which may be made by those who are accustomed to methodize and arrange the various objects of science under distinct and appropriate titles. And they offer what must be admitted as a reasonable apology for pursuing the steps of their predecessors:

" Geography, in strictness of speech, is a description of the

earth. It is commonly treated, however, as a mixed science. Geographical writers of eminence give some account of the people who inhabit the countries they describe. They admit the reader to as intimate an acquaintance with man, in the different degrees of his advancement from the savage to the social state, as the limits of their work admit. They exhibit a summary view of the climate, soil, and productions; of the commerce, agriculture, and manufactures of the various districts into which the earth is divided. So long have the public expected somewhat more than mere lines and circles, heights and distances, the dimensions, and mere local situation of countries, and places on the surface of the globe, that a geographer, who should confine himself to these subjects, would hazard the reception of a dull and barren writer."

Though as friends to literature and science, and wishing to see every distinct object of inquiry or contemplation in its proper place, we should be better pleased if writers would not step aside from the path of their research, to advance their own favourite opinions, to combat dogmas of theology, or to repel the assaults of infidel philosophy; yet, when the enemies of christianity have taken advantage of almost every form of publication, openly or covertly to disseminate doubts, and to weaken the influence of religion, it seems not more than just to allow the friends of that religion to avail themselves of similar occasions, and to use the same means to repel attack, or to strengthen and support their cause. Of this license, so generally taken, the compilers of the volume before us do not appear to have made a lavish or disproportionate use.

That a work like the present should be wholly free from error, is rather to be wished than expected. In defiance of the greatest care, and the most unwearied vigilance, errors will slide in unperceived by a thousand secret channels. Where they are not gross or numerous, they will easily be forgiven by all who are sensible of the distance between the highest possible accuracy, and that degree of correctness which diligence the most painful, and attention the most sedulous, are able to attain. Our time does not permit us, nor is it, perhaps, necessary, to enter into that minute examination which would be requisite to detect every fault in a work of this nature. In the cursory survey of its contents which we have thought proper to make, we have discovered no material errors. The names of the authors from whom the information is derived, are, with great propriety, subjoined to most of the ar-

ticles. The curious reader is thereby enabled to satisfy himself as to the fidelity of the compilers. The descriptions of places are, in general, sufficiently minute; and the manner in which the work is executed renders it inferior to none, and superior to most of the British publications of the kind which are imported for the use of our countrymen. We have no doubt that this *American* Gazetteer will find that ready and favourable reception from the public which it appears so well to deserve.

An *appendix* is added, to supply omissions which escaped notice, and to contain new intelligence from Europe, received while the work was passing through the press.

We are pleased to observe the very neat and correct manner in which this volume is printed, and which will be no small recommendation of it to the purchaser.

ART. XV. *Reports of Cases adjudged in the Circuit Court of the United States for the third Circuit. By* John B. Wallace. 8vo. pp. 146. *Philadelphia.* Dickins. 1801.

UNDER the late Judiciary Law of the United States, the third circuit comprized the districts of Pennsylvania, Delaware and New-Jersey; and the court consisted of the Hon. WILLIAM TILGHMAN, Chief Judge, the Hon. RICHARD BASSET, and the Hon. WILLIAM GRIFFITH. The first term of this court was held at Philadelphia, in May, 1801; and these Reports are of causes in which either questions of practice were then decided, trials had, or adjudications made upon cases stated.

It is of much importance that the forms and practice of a court should be well settled: decisions which have this tendency are highly worthy of preservation. The cases reported are principally of this kind; and although we admit their utility, we still think that too much attention has been bestowed on them, especially as very few of the points presented are either so new or difficult as to have required the tedious detail which generally accompanies them. It is, indeed, surprizing to see nearly a fourth part of the whole work consumed with a single cause, in which, after much solemn debate, it is determined that the court have a right to punish for a contempt, and to issue an attachment for that purpose; a question upon which, as one of the counsel very properly observed, "no judge or lawyer could entertain the shadow of a doubt." This

right is inherent in every court of record; it is essential to the due administration of justice. The argument of Mr. E. Tilghman on this subject is eloquent and impressive, and the opinion of the court is calculated to inspire a high sense of its patience, independence, and integrity.

In framing a report, we are sensible that the task of arranging and selecting what is strictly proper, and rejecting all superfluous matter, is both difficult and delicate; such, however, is the duty of the reporter, and no considerations of personal courtesy should deter him from the free exercise of his judgment. A correct statement of the case, an analysis of the arguments of counsel presenting the questions raised, the principles contended for, the authorities read and relied upon, a summary sketch of the reasoning at the bar upon each head, with the opinion of the court, expressed as concisely as is consistent with perspicuity, are the rules which we think should be adopted in the compilation of works of this nature. Mr. W. however, has not conformed very rigidly to our standard. The arguments of the counsel, and particularly the opinions of the court, are almost invariably too long: the latter are given separately, even where the decision is unanimous, which ought only to be done where the judges differ. At other times it is sufficient to give the opinion of one judge, briefly noticing whatever either of the others suggest as yielding additional support to the judgment. But upon the plan Mr. W. has pursued, books of this kind would swell to so inordinate a size as to counteract the very uses for which they were intended.

Mixing reports of cases which have been deliberately argued and determined, with *mere trials*, we consider injudicious. The opinions delivered at the latter are evidently entitled to little weight as authority, and cannot, in technical language, be denominated "adjudged cases." The hurry of a trial, the unexpected and unprepared manner in which questions of the greatest moment frequently arise in the course of it, are all unfriendly to that calm discussion, that laborious investigation, which can alone lead to decisions establishing a permanent system of law.

There are many reasons, however, which should diminish the disapprobation which our remarks may be thought to express. At the commencement of a court, every question may, in reference to that circumstance, be considered as new, and therefore entitled to more particular notice than is usual or necessary in old tribunals. The desire also of preserving every

thing worthy of the slightest regard which occurred in the first progress " of a great national judicature," was extremely natural. Such considerations may serve to justify Mr. W. for the copious manner in which he has chosen to record the proceedings of the court.

The business of reporting is also new in our country, and great allowance is due to a *first* essay; especially as we are informed in the preface that it was " made under considerable disadvantages." The attempt is in itself meritorious, and we think its execution " augurs favourably of the reporter." Mr. W. has certainly furnished honourable proofs of his talents and industry. The very full manner in which he has given the arguments of counsel and the opinions of the court, although we think it unsuitable to the nature of his undertaking, is evidence of his great attention and fidelity. He discovers also a knowledge in his profession which qualifies him for the employment he has assumed. Exuberance is his greatest fault; the remedy is within his own power.

ART. XVI. *A Sermon, delivered before the Massachusetts Missionary Society, at their Annual Meeting in Boston, May* 26, 1801. *By* Samuel Niles, *A. M. Pastor of the Church in Abington.* 8vo. pp. 38. *Cambridge.* Hilliard, 1801.

THIS sermon is well adapted to the occasion on which it was delivered. The passage of scripture selected as the subject of it is Rev. xxii. 2. *The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.* From this figurative language Mr. N. deduces the following doctrine as the basis of his discourse—" That the fruits of real piety, or christian practice, has a tendency, like the leaves of the tree of life, to heal and save the world." Though he has displayed considerable ingenuity in the application of the figure to his purpose, yet we have some doubts whether this application be not fanciful and unwarranted.

But whether Mr. N. has justly interpreted and applied his text or not, he certainly writes like a man of piety and good sense. His style is never elegant, and not always correct; but his ideas are, in general, well arranged, and pretty well expressed.

The Missionary Society before which this sermon was delivered, was instituted about two years ago. From an ap-

pendix of some length, we learn that, during the greater part of the time since its establishment, this association has had several missionaries employed in preaching the gospel in the frontier and other settlements of the United States; and that their ministrations have been attended with a very encouraging degree of success.

ART. XVII. *King Solomon's great Sacrifice at the Dedication of his Temple. A Sermon preached on the nineteenth Trinity Sunday, October 11th, 1801, at the Dedication of the new erected English Lutheran Church, called Zion, in the City of New-York. By* John C. Kunze, *D. D. Senior of the Lutheran Clergy in the State of New-York.* 8vo. pp. 40. *New-York,* Nichols & Co. 1801.

IN this discourse, after some introductory remarks on the antiquity and propriety of consecrating times and events by public solemnities, the author treats, at some length, of the circumstances and design of that dedication of the Temple of God which was performed by Solomon. These are stated with much amplification and minuteness of detail, and interspersed with many serious remarks of a doctrinal and practical kind, and with frequent allusions to the occasion on which the discourse was delivered. To the whole are added, a prayer and a form of dedication.

Without presuming to offer any opinion on the doctrines taught or implied in this sermon, we shall only observe, on the character of the composition, that the reverend author appears to be well acquainted with the scriptures, and to possess a very fervent piety. He dwells, perhaps, too much on circumstances of little importance, and passes over too lightly others which deserved more of his attention. Still the discourse contains a considerable portion of solid and valuable matter.

Dr. K. is a native of Germany, and probably but little versed in English composition. This affords an abundant apology for the numerous faults in his style which the reader of accuracy and taste will observe.

ART. XVIII. *A Discourse, delivered in the South Meeting-House in Andover, before his Excellency the Governor, the Honourable Council, the President of the Senate, and Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, at the Funeral of his Honour* Samuel Phillips, *Esq. late Lieutenant-Governor of said Commonwealth, Feb.* 15, 1802. *By* David Tappan, *D. D. Professor of Divinity in Harvard College.* 8vo. pp. 27. *Boston.* Young & Minns. 1802.

THE worthy man, whose death gave occasion to this discourse, was eminently distinguished by his solid talents, his piety, his integrity, his public spirit, his diffusive benevolence, and his numerous social virtues. These prompted him to employ his wealth, and the various means of usefulness committed to him, in promoting, to a degree beyond most other individuals, the interests of literature, religion and humanity; and secured to him a very uncommon share of public esteem and confidence. To all the excellences and usefulness which he exhibited as a man, a christian and a citizen, he added an upright, uniform and dignified discharge of the duties of various civil offices, which he successively filled. —That the death of such a man should be lamented, and that public honours should be decreed to his memory, will be considered by all a debt due to his worth.

Dr. Tappan quotes, as a text, part of the 12th Psalm: *Help, Lord, for the godly man ceaseth; for the faithful fail from among the children of men.* The first three pages are taken up with a delineation of the character mentioned in this passage, by the psalmist. The author then proceeds to apply this character to the deceased, in a strain of high, but not extravagant eulogium.

We have before had occasion to commend Dr. T. as a writer. The present specimen will no way diminish his reputation in this respect. It is an excellent discourse, containing much just, moral and religious sentiment, delivered in a style manly, pure, and, in general, correct.

ART. XIX. *A Sermon, preached February* 15, 1802, *before the Hon. Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, on the Day of the Interment of his Honour* Samuel Phillips, *Esq. Lieutenant-Governor, who died February* 10, 1802, *Æt.* 50. *By* Thomas Baldwin, *A. M. Chaplain to the House.* 8vo. pp. 21. *Boston.* Young & Minns. 1802.

THIS discourse is founded on John i. 47. *Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no guile.* The design which Mr. B. announces, from these words, is "to notice some of the most prominent features in the character of a *virtuous, wise, patriotic,* and *pious* magistrate;" and "then to make some application of the subject to the affecting occasion" on which his audience was convened.

Although this discourse is not equal to that announced in the preceding article, either with respect to richness of matter or excellence of style; yet it is evidently the production of a sensible and serious mind.

ART. XX. *Letters on the Kine-Pox and a Variety of other Medical Subjects, written by Dr.* B. L. Oliver, *of Salem, and Dr.* William Currie, *of Philadelphia.* 8vo. pp. 54. *Philadelphia.* Woodward. 1802.

IT is difficult to imagine that the publication of this pamphlet can be calculated in any manner to enlarge the stock of knowledge in the community, or to advance the reputation and usefulness of the compiler. It consists of a heap of motley materials, drawn from various sources—some deserving of more, others of less attention—selected without skill, and thrown together without method. A great number of subjects are undertaken to be discussed. It must surprize the reader to find, within the compass of fifty-four pages, the following variety of matters brought successively into view; viz. *Inquiries relative to the effects of the Kine-Pox; answers to these queries; an abstract from Dr. Haygarth's address to the College of Physicians, respecting the origin of the yellow fever, &c. a refutation of Dr. Mitchill's opinion respecting pestilential fluids; an account of the fever at Cadiz in the year* 1800; *an account of the measles in Philadelphia; remarks on the pernicious effects of mercury in inflammatory diseases; the effects of arsenic in intermittents;*

the effects of digitalis in dropsy and phthisis pulmonalis; the effects of cold water in fevers; an address to the New-York Reviewers, containing facts in proof of the existence of febrile contagion, &c. a refutation of the notion of the existence of a pestilential constitution of the atmosphere; an account of the discordant opinions respecting syphilis when it first appeared in Europe; Philadelphia proved, by the bills of mortality, to be more salubrious than formerly.

As the character of the vaccine disease, of which he first treats, is allowed, on all hands, to be singularly simple and plain, it is matter of wonder to find Dr. C. falling into so many blunders in his short account of it. Scarcely any thing more is requisite than to distinguish the genuine cow-pock from other affections of the skin, to take the virus intended for inoculation within a definite period, and properly to treat the inoculated part. Yet this simple affair, which may be explained in a few lines, and is perfectly understood by many unprofessional persons, seems altogether to have transcended the intelligence and discernment of Dr. C. He describes the appearance and progress of the disease so incorrectly, that we are obliged to suppose either that he has never seen it, and has not even read the accounts of others, or that his powers of observation and recollection are remarkably defective. From the description he gives, no person would ever be able to distinguish the peculiar, specific vesicle of the cow-pock, from many other cutaneous affections, with which it may be confounded by an inexperienced eye. Besides this, he seems to have no correct impression of the extensive efflorescence surrounding the cow-pock vesicle, which generally, and often suddenly, takes place on the tenth day, or somewhat later in the disease. His inattention to this is the more wonderful, and the less to be excused, as Dr. Jenner, and all others who have written with accuracy on the subject, make use of the appearance of this efflorescence to form a period of the disease, after which the virus should never be taken for the purpose of inoculation; because it then very frequently produces the spurious disease, from which so many disappointments and other mischiefs have resulted. Another error, connected with this, is equally flagrant. He asserts that "the best time to take the fluid from the vesicle, for inoculating others, is from the sixth to the tenth day;" and again, that "*after* the tenth day the pustule is usually converted into too dry a scab to afford the genuine matter." Now, it is known that the taking of virus for inoculation so late as the tenth day, is condemned by every

well-informed inoculator of the vaccine disease, especially since the publication of the full and pointed injunctions of Dr. Jenner on this subject.

Dr. C. offers a pretended *refutation of Dr. Mitchill's opinion respecting pestilential fluids.* It is not our design, at present, to discuss the merits of that opinion; but we will venture to assert that our author, so far from comprehending that doctrine, betrays an utter unacquaintance with the elementary principles, and even the language of chemistry. He gravely tells us that "the nitrous *acid*, in a gaseous state," is denominated by Dr. Mitchill "the gaseous *oxyd* of septon." It is surely time to close our remarks on this subject, when Dr. C. so palpably makes it appear that he knows not the distinction between an *acid* and an *oxyd*.

In his endeavours to maintain the doctrine of the importation and contagiousness of the yellow fever, Dr. C. introduces a letter from his friend and coadjutor, Dr. Hosack, of New-York, who, speaking of the death of Dr. Bayley, the late lamented health-officer of the port of New-York, expresses himself as follows: "The gentlemen who attended him in his illness call his disease a yellow fever; but as they understand by yellow fever not only that species which we designate by that name, but a variety of fevers that other physicians consider as a different species, it would puzzle the most acute understanding to comprehend them." The impropriety of this attempt to injure the very respectable physicians who attended Dr. Bayley, is too obvious to deserve any further notice than barely to state it.

But the most singular of all the parts of this performance is that which the author addresses "*To the New-York Medical Reviewers.*" When we first glanced at this, we supposed the writer had intended to implicate us in his attack, and we began to wonder in what manner, or on what occasion, we had been so unfortunate as to provoke his resentment. Looking onward a few lines, we found that Dr. C.'s anger was directed towards our cotemporaries, the reviewers for the Medical Repository. This discovery served only to excite our curiosity to know more of the matter; when, turning to that work, the doubt was removed, and we beheld Dr. C. smarting under the scourge which those reviewers were applying on the score of what they are pleased to call absurdities and unmannerly invectives, contained in certain pamphlets which he had formerly permitted himself to write and publish. We cannot undertake to interpose our judgment between those

reviewers and Dr. C. Our humanity, indeed, is always ready to commiserate the pangs of unfortunate authorship, and more particularly where good intentions and good temper had been duly manifested by the writer. For the consolation of Dr. C. under the frowns of criticism, we take the liberty to observe, that the opinion of a reviewer is only the opinion of an individual, and, therefore, at all times fallible, and open to question and appeal. Dr. C.'s inclination to deny the jurisdiction of reviewers will avail him nothing. If one writer may present himself, uncalled for, before the public; surely another may, with equal right, animadvert upon whatever of error or ignorance is supposed to be found in the performance thus brought under consideration. But it should be remembered, to the comfort of those who undertake, by their writings, to improve and enlighten the community, that the censures of criticism are only formidable when they rest on the basis of truth and justice.

The remainder of this pamphlet contains many things which indicate want of information on some of the plainest subjects; but we find neither time nor patience to enlarge this article, at present, by any further remarks.

ART. XXI. *A View of the Present State of the Political World, drawn from the General Aspect of the Providences of God in Connection with the Predictions of his Holy Word; in a Discourse, delivered the 1st of January,* 1802. *By* John M'Knight, *D. D. one of the Ministers of the United Presbyterian Congregations in the City of New-York.* 8vo. pp. 39. *New-York.* Collins & Son. 1802.

THERE is a close connection between the course of events and the predictions in sacred scripture. Careful study to discern this connection, and skill in illustrating it, are highly commendable in the teachers of our holy religion. Conducted with that modesty, caution, and close attention, which accompany the love of truth, and conformably with the scriptural rules of interpretation, their inquiries would be successful, their application of prophecy correct, and their views of the state of the world both comprehensive and instructive. The result of their labours would be the most seasonable admonitions to those under their charge, additional evidence to the truth of christianity, and the confirmation of their own hope.

With a view to this result, and, unquestionably, with the very best intentions, the sermon before us has been published. How far the writer has been successful in the execution, we must endeavour to inquire, with the impartial justice which belongs to liberal and fair criticism.

The importance of the subject must be our apology for extending our remarks farther than the size of the publication may, at first view, appear to require.

The discourse is founded on Isaiah xxi. 11, 12. *Watchman, what of the night*, &c. After a pertinent introduction, and a short explication of the text, Dr. M. leaves it as it stands connected with the prophecy, and expresses his design to consider the question here asked, as proposed with respect to the present times; to answer it from the general aspect of the providence of God, taken in connection with the prediction of his holy word, and then point out some of the duties to which, in present circumstances, his hearers may be called.—He proposes to consider the subject in a *political* and *religious* point of view.

For connecting politics with religion, the following apology is offered by the writer:

"As I have always heretofore carefully avoided introducing, on the Sabbath, or in the course of my stated ministrations, any sentiments of a political nature, I shall indulge the hope, that though, on this extra occasion, I should in some measure deviate from my general practice, it will not be thought censurable; and that I shall be heard with patience and candour on this critical *subject;* more especially, as I have it not in view to advance any thing upon it which I think can be just cause of offence to any, and to which I am not necessarily led by the *subject*."

An estimate of the political state of the world is made up from a "few matters of fact:" these are drawn from a very partial and limited view of the progress of government from the grant of *magna charta* down to the late peace in Europe; and the conclusion from them is, that the origin, nature and design of civil government, the powers of the ruler, and the rights of the subject, have been more thoroughly investigated, and are more fully and generally known at the present, than at any former period.

Without examining the justness of this conclusion, we have only to observe that we have looked in vain for that accurate acquaintance with history, for those enlarged and comprehensive views of human affairs, and that knowledge of events in their

causes and circumstances, without which it is impossible to make a correct estimate of the state of the world.

Dismissing his political discussion, let us now examine whether his views of the religious state of the world are more correct and comprehensive. He appears to be of the opinion of those who believe that the accomplishment of the promises which respect the millennial glory of the church is at hand. Hence, he observes, that to the question in the text, as it respects the religious state of the world, the answer may confidently be given, the *morning cometh*. To support this opinion, due attention is directed to two particular predictions, which are supposed to be closely connected, and to have already received their accomplishment.

At a period when party-spirit has been highly excited, when a singular course of events has awakened such general attention to the prophecies, and an extreme zeal for political systems has given rise to various and contradictory interpretations of these prophecies, the necessity of great caution and diffidence in explaining them will be universally acknowledged. Examples of this political zeal have not been rare within the last ten years. Some passages from Fleming's Apocalyptic Discourses, supposed to be unfriendly to the French revolution, had been circulated in Great-Britain with much diligence. To counteract their impression, Mr. Towers, an enthusiastic admirer of this revolution, wrote his *Illustrations of Prophecy*. The object of that book is to prove that Fleming's application of the fourth vial to France, instead of favouring the re-establishment of the monarchy, expresses an expectation that it would be humbled and destroyed; that the eleventh chapter of the apocalypse has an immediate relation to France and its revolution; that the sixteenth chapter foretels a combination of European kings against the liberty and happiness of the world; and that the *witnesses* of whom St. John speaks arose by the French revolution, and that this, of course, was the commencement of the Millennium, or revival of civil and religious liberty.

We have given this detail of the leading features of Mr. Towers's system, because it appears to be that which Dr. M. has adopted, with little or no variation. The following prophecy, in the eleventh chapter of Rev. and 13th verse, he applies to the great commotion which has taken place in France. *The same hour there was a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the city fell, and in the earthquake were slain of men seven thousand.* He then proceeds:

"This, you will observe, is said to have happened *in the same hour*, or to have taken place in the same period of time with the resurrection of the witnesses. Of these witnesses it is said, that the beast should make war against them, and kill them; that their dead bodies should lie in the streets of the great city, which is spiritually called Sodom and Egypt, three days and an half; and that, after three days and an half, the spirit of life from God should enter into them; that they should stand upon their feet, and ascend up into heaven, or be greatly promoted and exalted in the world."—The *two witnesses* here spoken of are designed, he supposes, to represent the friends and supporters of true religion and the rights and liberties of men; the *three days and an half* to represent three lunar months and an half, amounting to 105 years. This period, he believes, commences on the death of the witnesses, at the revocation of the edict of Nantz, 1685: "If, then, to this number," says Dr. M. "you add 105, it will bring it down to the year 1790, the very year in which the French revolution took place." The invitation to the witnesses, mentioned in the verse, is applied to the convocation of the States-General by Louis XVI. 1789. "This," he adds, "was the more immediate cause of the revolution in France, and in this was the foundation of *civil and religious liberty* in that country laid."

Though we do not pretend to have studied this subject with all that deep attention which is due to its importance; yet we conceive that the reverend author, in making this application of the prophecy, violates some of the fundamental rules of interpretation.

First, there appears to be a want of precision and accuracy in explaining the symbolical dates. A *day* is the prophetic symbol for a *year;* but where does a day represent a *month?* or, if this could even be shown, what astronomer makes a lunar month 30 days? Explaining the prophecies with such a license, they will prove any thing. But if we take three and an half lunar months, consisting of 27 days, 7 hours, 43 minutes, and 11 seconds each, it would by no means answer the purpose of this interpretation; it would fall far short of the space between the revocation of the edict of Nantz and the French revolution. To bring the event to the prediction, therefore, it must necessarily be at the expense of astronomical truth. It is evident, from a comparison of the prophetic dates with the authority of the best commentators, that the 1260 days, the space in which the witnesses prophesy, is, according to the Jewish

chronology, the same with 42 months, the period of Antichrist's reign. If, then, the witnesses were dead at the revocation of the edict of Nantz, 1685, they must have began to prophesy in 425. This too, as will appear from Rev. xi. 2. must have been the commencement of the antichristian usurpation: reckoning from this 1260 years, which is the length of his reign, he and the tenth part of the city must have fallen in 1685, that is, *more than a century before the French revolution.* No interpretation which leads to such inconsistency can possibly be admitted.

Secondly, as Dr. M. is inaccurate in comparing the symbolical dates, he has also disregarded the *order of events.* According to his interpretation, the first event is the invitation to the witnesses in 1789; then follows their resurrection, and the falling of the tenth part of the city in 1790. This exposition inverts the order both of sense and of scripture: for, according to scripture, the resurrection of the witnesses stands first, then the invitation to power, and, last of all, the destruction of the tenth part of the city.

Thirdly, the state of things in the period to which these predictions are applied, does by no means correspond with the emblematical description of the events in the predictions.

That France has so fallen as not to constitute a part of the Papal Hierarchy, might, a few years ago, have been maintained with some appearance of truth: but in the present state of things it was certainly incumbent on the writer to show us how to reconcile his interpretation with the re-establishment of popery there, and the treaty of the French government with his holiness. They have, for a time, thrown off the authority of their ghostly father, as others of his children have done so before them; but they have again returned into his bosom; and if we consider the tendency of men to vibrate from one extreme to another, the bulk of the people will again count their beads, and dress the Papal altar with as much devotion as ever.

However this may be, if a direct and open opposition to christianity, in its doctrines, its institutions, and its morality, be as much a branch of Antichrist as are the superstition and corruptions of popery, then this application of these predictions appears to be still more unwarranted. France, to speak in the prophetic style, is still *a street of the great city Babylon.* She has again become *a pillar of the Church of Rome;* and since the commencement of the revolution to the present period, those principles and that licentiousness which are most

directly opposed to genuine christianity, have, according to the testimony of candid men of all parties, had a support and prevalence unequalled in any period of the Christian Church. When, before, has a man made an avowal of *atheism* without reproach? When, before, was it openly professed by men in every rank of life? When, before this period, was it sanctioned by the legislative council of a nation?

When the *tenth part of the city falls, the rest*, affrighted at the ruin, are to *give glory to the God of Heaven.* What that has taken place in France corresponds with this? Where are we to look for St. John's witnesses, the advocates of true religion? Among those who began the revolution? Among the Brissotines, the Jacobins, the followers of the ferocious Robespierre? There were, no doubt, many who meant well, many who wished to overturn the intolerant superstition of their country; but who amongst them has evinced a sincere disposition to support, in its place, *genuine christianity?* What do we discover in their national acts that can entitle them to the dignified character of *witnesses?* Is it their new calendar? the abrogation of the Christian Sabbath? or the dissolution of the marriage tie? The influential men in France, in every period of the revolution, would have smiled at the station assigned them by this writer. Their love of liberty has not been more their boast than their opposition to christianity.

But by Dr. M. they are considered as the *witnesses for civil liberty*, and therefore the application of the prophecy to them is thought just. Whatever may have been the intentions of some amongst them, can it now be said that there is or has been such a revival of civil liberty in France, as to constitute the revolutionists the *prophetic witnesses?* Many indeed hoped, that the revival and establishment of civil liberty would have been the issue; but that hope, disappointed at every stage of the revolution, has now no refuge but in the death of the chief ruler.

Dr. M. must possess greater foresight than his cotemporaries, if he can discover in the present military despotism, that "*they are now evidently in a favourable situation for establishing their liberties on a sure and permanent basis.*"

The application of one of the predictions to the treaty of *Pilnitz*, though it may have struck the imagination of Towers and Bechino, somewhat surprized us. He will not, he says, undertake to determine, whether or not the combination of *Pilnitz* was the fulfilment of that part of the prophecy, in which we are told that "*three unclean spirits like frogs*

came out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet, which are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of the great day of God Almighty." It is foreign to the present argument to inquire what may have been the precise object and extent of that treaty: On this subject doubts have been entertained, and opposite assertions made. But whatever was its nature, we think that the supposition of Dr. M. represents it as an affair of much greater importance than it really was, and has rather a tendency to degrade than illustrate prophecy.

Supposing that the morals of the people have become more and more corrupt since the American Revolution, Dr. M. proceeds to consider the *causes* of this degeneracy; what is our present situation; and what measures are proper to produce a reformation.

"With respect to the corruption in principle," he observes, "Socinian, Arian, Armenian [Arminian], and some other heterodox notions, are, I presume, well known to be more prevalent, particularly in some of the Eastern States, formerly famous for their purity in these respects, than they then were." If, by "corruption of principle," Dr. M. means only that, in some of the Eastern States, there has been a departure from that *pure Calvinism* which once existed there, we agree with him; but how far the charge of entertaining these *heterodox notions* belongs particularly and emphatically to New-England, we shall not undertake to decide. We leave the author to discuss and settle the question with his *Eastern* brethren. If by the sentence we have quoted, or the context, it is intended (which we do not say) to intimate that the *Eastern* States have, in a particular manner, degenerated in religion and morals, we must dissent from such an opinion; since we are firmly persuaded that there ever has been, and now is, at least as much sincere piety and pure morality in the *Eastern*, as in the *Middle* or *Southern* States.

The writer very justly enumerates a state of war among the causes of the depravity of morals. He next mentions the *depreciation of the paper currency*, which afforded an opportunity to some for speculation, and to others to pay their debts with a trifling sum. The *funding system*, in the third place, he observes, "tended to diffuse a spirit of speculation far and wide," and to have had a most "unhappy effect on the community at large, as well as to have produced the ruin of a number of

individuals." *Previous* to making provision for the payment of the national debt, a spirit of speculation in the various kinds of *depreciated* and *unfunded public securities*, had, indeed, extended far and wide: and if, by ascribing this mischief to the funding system, Dr. M. means that the *prospect* of its taking place gave activity to, and increased the arts of speculation, he is correct; but it must be admitted, as a *direct consequence* of that system, that, in a few months after it was put into operation, all this injurious traffic ceased. If the *depreciation of continental money* was an evil, and produced speculation, and wounded moral honesty, as Dr. M. justly observes, the *funding* system, which had a contrary effect, by fixing the value of the public debt, and providing a *fund* for its payment, and thereby destroying that speculation which lives only on the precarious, fluctuating and uncertain prices of the market, cannot, with propriety, be ranked among the *causes* of public depravity. It seems an error, therefore, to ascribe such mischievous *effects* to the *funding* of the national debt. The wide ruin of individuals has been produced, not by speculation in the *funds*, but by speculation in *wild lands* to an amount far exceeding all the circulating medium in the country; to say nothing of the immense *commercial speculations* in which the interrupted and variable condition of the trade of the nations of Europe has led our merchants to engage.

The introduction and dispersion of deistical writings amongst us is next mentioned, and certainly cannot be too much deplored as tending further to the relaxation of morals. Lastly, Dr. M. animadverts on that "unhappy violent spirit of party-politics which has so much prevailed amongst us," in the censure of which we entirely coincide with him.

The present situation of things, Dr. M. thinks, promises peace and happiness abroad and at home. He sees great cause for felicitation in every point of view, and we are not disposed to disturb so blissful a prospect, by expressing apprehensions of a different tendency. The discourse is concluded with some pious and proper exhortations to amendment and reformation in all classes of people.

We cannot highly commend the style of Dr. M. either for correctness, perspicuity or elegance. The following paragraph will serve as a specimen:

"Here also we first see the *heterogeneous* and *incestuous* [how incestuous?] connection between the kingdom of the world and the kingdom of Christ, which, from the reign of

Constantine down to the present day, has been the source of incalculable mischief, both to the interests of true religion, and the civil and religious rights of man, renounced: each resting on their proper foundation, and exercising respectively their particular and appropriate rights and prerogatives. And you will permit me, my brethren, on this occasion, to congratulate you on the rational prospects which we enjoy, of having our constitution preserved inviolate, and our liberties, civil and religious, rendered secure and permanent. Our government carries in its bosom what no other government ever possessed, the principles requisite to its correction and amelioration; nor can the people be ever enslaved but through the grossest inattention, or until they become enslaved by their vices."

ART. XXII. *Annals of the Corporation relative to the late contested Elections; with Strictures upon the Conduct of the Majority. In seven Numbers. By* Lysander. 8vo. pp. 90. *New-York.* Denniston & Cheetham. 1802.

THIS pamphlet is intended to discuss the several matters in variance among the members of the Corporation of the city of New-York, which have unhappily existed for some months past, and which have suspended for some time the ordinary course of proceedings in that body.

The first number is addressed "to the late majority in the Common Council." The second consists of introductory observations. The third treats of the right of scrutiny. The fourth exhibits a history of the scrutiny in the fifth ward. The fifth delivers a history of the scrutiny in the fourth ward—proceedings of the Common Council—qualification of the returned members. The sixth presents the proceedings of the Common Council subsequent to the scrutiny—protest of the minority—application and refusal of Mr. Bogert—secession of the federal members—present state of the city. The seventh suggests such means of redress as the author is disposed to recommend.

It will be obvious to the reader that the objects of this performance are chiefly of a local and temporary nature. The questions in dispute are become connected with considerations of party, and, therefore, are unsuitable for discussion in this place.

The style of this writer is, in general, smooth, flowing and animated. It is, however, liable to criticism for its diffuseness and affectation. The sentences abound with redundant mem-

bers and phrases, which, though they show copiousness of expression, discover a deficiency of taste, and immaturity of judgment. The following quotations will exemplify the faults we have mentioned. "Bewildered and perplexed, enveloped in a labyrinth, lost in confusion, and ignorant of your characters, you had but too much reason to lament the absence of your prompter."—"The playful proprietors of the theatre, and the bacchanalian owners of the Belvidere, present a principal column of the phalanx."—"The language of panegyric would be an insult to the *sensibility of your feelings.*"—"Even the Philips of your body would view it as the hidden sting of irony, or the satire of burlesque."—A copy, *verbatim et literatim*, of a written instrument, is erroneously called a *facsimile*, which is the engraved likeness of the hand-writing itself. In the phrase, "*infinitesimal particle of an atom*," we are presented with the infinitely divided particle of an indivisible particle.

On the whole, with the exercise of sober judgment, and the suitable application of the pruning-knife, the author may, perhaps, become a pleasing writer.

ART. XXIII. *An Oration pronounced at Charlestown, at the Request of the Artillery Company, on the 17th of June, being the Anniversary of the Battle of Bunker's Hill. By* William Austin, *A. B. Charlestown (Mass.)* Etheridge. 1801.

THIS oration displays that generous enthusiasm which the occasion naturally inspired. His eloquence, though flowery and turgid, is animated with a spirit well adapted to an audience of patriotic soldiers.

ART. XXIV. *An Essay on Church Government. By* Alexander Miller, *A. M.* 8vo. pp. 30. *Albany.* Whiting & Leavenworth. 1801.

THE reasons for this publication are thus stated by the author in his preface:

"Many valuable things have been written on church government in the two last centuries. These writings, however, are either so tedious in their manner, or so rarely to be met with in this country, that they are of little service to us. Yet

the subject is no less interesting to us than it was to our fathers. It is not enough that they understood it; people of every age and nation should be acquainted with it. And what renders an attention to it the more necessary for us at the present time, is, that our frontiers are rapidly filling with inhabitants brought up under different modes of church government, who are now forming themselves into congregations. To people in such circumstances it may not be unprofitable to have presented, in a concise manner, what the scriptures teach us respecting the government of the church of God. These are the motives of the following essay. It is short, that it may be easily procured, and that it may not tire. If it may meet the approbation of him who is made head over all things to the church, and contribute something towards the edifying of his body, this will be the highest reward that can be received by the author."

The author of this Essay is a friend to the *Presbyterian* plan of church government. He considers this plan as most agreeable to scripture, and most conducive to order, purity, and edification. He supposes, however, that the *Congregational* churches of New-England have adopted a mode of government differing so little from the Presbyterian form, that the difference ought not to be considered a sufficient ground of separation, or of difficulty; and on this principle recommends, that, wherever *Presbyterians* and *Congregationalists* happen to be thrown together in the new settlements, they should cheerfully unite in either of the plans which may have been previously adopted, or which a majority may think proper to choose.

Without presuming to decide whether the reasonings of Mr. M. are well or ill founded, we would only remark on his performance, that, in general, in a literary view, it deserves praise. As far as he goes, he states the usual arguments in favour of his opinions with considerable skill and force; and his style is unaffected, concise and neat.

ART. XXV. *The Power of Godliness exemplified, in the remarkable Conversion, and triumphant Death, of Mrs.* Mary Davis, *of Bermuda. By the Rev. Dr.* James Muir, *Pastor of the Presbyterian Church at Alexandria.* 8vo. pp. 20. *Alexandria.* J. & J. D. Westcott. 1802.

THIS short and simple narrative, interspersed with pertinent and pious remarks, is well calculated to show the benign influence of religion in purifying the heart and life,

and in affording support and consolation in death. Every friend of rational piety will be gratified in perusing it. It is drawn up with great seriousness, but without enthusiasm; with great zeal for evangelical truth, but without party animosity.

ART. XXVI. *A Century Sermon, preached at Mansfield, January* 1, 1801. *By* Moses C. Welch, *Pastor of the Church in Mansfield, North Society.* 8vo. pp. 30. *Hartford.* Hudson & Goodwin. 1801.

MR. WELCH chose for a text 1 Sam. vii. 12. *Then Samuel took up a stone, and set it between Mizpeh and Shen, and called the name of it Ebenezer, saying, Hitherto hath the Lord helped us.* From this passage he deduces the remark, "that a wise people will carefully notice the providences of God, and keep them in remembrance." After illustrating the wisdom and usefulness of this conduct at considerable length, Mr. W. proceeds to review some past events, more particularly relating to the town and congregation in which he resides. In this review he falls into an error before noticed in several centurial sermons: we mean, filling his pages with dry catalogues of names and dates, which ought to have been conveyed in *notes;* instead of making the body of his discourse to consist of those *general accounts* of the revolutions, improvements, and growth, which the late century produced, within the sphere of his observation. After these dry details, he concludes with some general remarks and addresses, more agreeable to the dignity of the pulpit, and suitable to the occasion.

The most distinguishing characteristic of this discourse is its piety. In this view it is worthy of high praise. The composition, however, when tested by literary rules, will not, we fear, be found remarkable either for richness of sentiment or correctness of style.

ART. XXVII. *Original Poems, serious and entertaining, by* Paul Allen, *A. M.* 12mo. pp. 141. *Salem.* Cushing. 1801.

FROM one of the pieces in this volume we find that the author is an *alumnus* of Rhode-Island college; and it appears, from some circumstances, that he is a young man. On this last presumption we shall consider him as entitled to much indulgence.

The volume contains about sixty pieces of verse on various subjects, mostly of an occasional nature, and written either in moments of gaiety, " or in a settled gloom and dejection of mind." We perceive in them no very strong traits of poetical genius. The versification in many instances is musical, the style in some places glittering, and the sentiments, throughout, moral, patriotic and pious. The thoughts, however, have little claim to originality, and the composition, in general, is deficient in strength and correctness.

The author appears to most advantage when decorated with the flowers of fancy; though few of them are of his own production. We shall quote his *Pleasures of Fancy*, and give an extract from his *Ode to Health*, which have more of the poetical dress than any other of his pieces contained in this volume.

" THE PLEASURES OF FANCY.

" Sweetest warbler of the spray,
Awhile suspend your pleasing lay;
Ye gales! your gentle breaths forbear,
And, hush'd in silent, soft repose,
Attend awhile, and you shall hear
The pleasure which the hermit knows.

" When the rich mantle of the morn
Begins with splendour to unfold,
I mark upon the bending thorn
The lively dew-drop tipp'd with gold.
Forth from my cave I view the light,
Rejoicing o'er the shades of night;
Then my fond thoughts with rapture roll,
In all the energy of soul.

" But when the cheerful day is gone,
And darksome night moves slowly on;
When, with a melancholy grace,
Pale Luna lifts her sober face;
Then whispers soft some unknown power,
'Tis Contemplation's fav'rite hour.

" If chance the rainy torrent falls,
And patters on my cottage walls,
Secure I hear the tempest roar,
And howl for entrance at the door;
On the bright vernal bow I gaze,
Where mimic diamonds seem to blaze.

" If from the north stern Winter blows
His driving cataract of snows,

In dark'ning storms and tempests drest,
Then Pleasure drops her cherub wing,
Reclines on April's dewy breast,
And waits the symphony of Spring.

" When Summer comes, with glory crown'd,
Dispersing light and grandeur round,
I seek the heav'n-aspiring hill,
Or wander where the murm'ring rill
Rolls over fragrant beds of flowers,
And there I pass the noon-tide hours.

" Nor sober Autumn comes in vain;
'Tis then I court the studious train,
Or haunt the Muses' sacred grove,
Where oft my footsteps love to rove.

" And when the trees stand dark and bare,
No cheerful music warbling there,
My breast with tender pity heaves—
I read my fate in falling leaves.

" O Nature! all-sufficient maid,
Give me thy wond'rous works to scan;
Inspire me with thy powerful aid,
And let me know myself a man."

In the last verse there is a falling off, and the whole wants revision and correction.

" Ode to Health.

" Divine *Hygeia!* lift thy wing;
Forsake awhile thy downy bed;
Come in the fragrance of the spring,
And scatter roses round my head.
Or, if thou seek'st the mountain's breezy height,
Or tread'st with fairy feet the spangled lawn,
Catching, with anxious eye, the beams of light
That fire the ruddy cheeks of early dawn;
O come, thy sacred charms around diffuse;
Bathe my hot temples with thy cooling dews.

" Or if, in thy immortal bower,
Thou shun'st th' obtrusive blaze of day,
Guarding from harm the tender flower,
Fann'd by the genial breath of May;
Or if thou windest down the mazy dance,
With all the nymphs and dryads of the wood,
In groves impervious to the solar glance,
Or bath'st thy lucid limbs in yonder flood;

Attend, fair Goddess! lull me to repose,
And pour a sweet oblivion on my woes."

In his poem on the happiness of America, Mr. A. displays more enthusiasm than true taste or sound judgment. He exclaims thus:

"'Tis thine, blest country! to preserve unstain'd
Those rights which Freedom with such honour gain'd.
O may thy children grasp the glorious prize
That wing'd their great forefathers to the skies!
Yes, may they to their sacred tombs repair,
And by their holy ashes fiercely swear,
Firm on the necks of prostrate kings to tread,
And from a tyrant's body tear the head!"

This patriotic oath outdoes that of the young Carthaginian.

The writer, as is common, declares in his preface, that it was not the vanity of authorship that induced him to publish his collection. We are willing to believe him on this point, since he will not feel wounded by our refusing high praise to his poetry, while we give him credit for every thing else.

We wish not absolutely to discourage him from any future attempts; but where the inspiration of original genius is not strongly felt, the only hope of improvement is in a diligent study of the best poets, and of the objects of nature. Let him cultivate his mind, we do not say for *nine years;* but if he is very young, he would do well not to publish again without the advantages which may be derived from the exercise and improvement of his powers for a time.

ART. XXVIII. *Desultory Reflections, excited by the recent Calamitous Fate of* John Fullerton: *addressed to those who frequent the Theatre, and to the Dramatic Critics. By* Mathew Carey. *Fourth Edition.* 8vo. pp. 18. *New-York,* Hopkins. 1802.

THE object of this performance is to furnish some instructive lessons on the manner and effect of criticising theatrical performers. Our readers may perhaps remember that the newspapers announced the death of Mr. John Fullerton, comedian, one of the company of Mr. Wignell, of Philadelphia, with circumstances that indicated suicide. The author of this little pamphlet supposes that Mr. Fullerton's untimely fate was caused by the marks of disapprobation on his mode of acting, occasionally expressed at the theatre, and by

newspaper criticisms. If this be true it is much to be lamented. It is to be lamented that Mr. Fullerton did not give pleasure as an actor; and it is much to be regretted that his want of success, if that was the cause, should drive him to desperation. That the marks of censure bestowed on Mr. Fullerton proceeded from enmity or malignity we do not believe; and Mr. Carey is, perhaps, among the very few who are yet to learn that Americans do not persecute amiable and unoffending strangers through wantonness.

Mr. C. insinuates that Fullerton was sacrificed by a cruel combination of men associated for the purpose; and, further, that such combinations, for such purposes, are frequent. This is scarcely credible; and we must be permitted to doubt the truth of such insinuations. On the contrary, we are, from long observation, fully convinced that the players are in this country treated with justice and propriety on the stage and in their professional characters. In private life it is too true that respectable individuals of the profession have sometimes to contend with illiberality and prejudice; the principal cause of which is, that the general denomination, " player," is extended from Garrick to the man who imitated the cock—from the polished gentleman, gifted with the choicest attributes of man, both from nature and education, to the idle vagabond, who seeks in the lower offices of the theatre a mode of life more congenial to his vices than that of regular and useful labour. But the manner of the death of Mr. Fullerton was unusual and deplorable, and it was natural that the sagacity of Mr. C. should be exercised in searching for some uncommon cause.

The author of this pamphlet steps forth as the champion of the theatre, of its managers and performers. Though we cannot assent to Mr. C.'s propositions, we do not take part against the *dramatic corps;* on the contrary, we are often gratified and delighted by their exertions, and we sincerely wish them a more judicious advocate than the author of " Desultory Reflections." Our purpose is to state what we believe to be the true ground on which a player stands in respect to the public, and to show the danger to which he is necessarily exposed, when he professedly offers himself as a candidate for applause.

Poetry, Painting, and Music, have been called sisters. They are *imitative arts*, and have one end, among others, which is *to give pleasure.* They are denominated fine arts, and are distinguished by their nature and effects from the mechanic

arts, whose object is utility. To the latter we do not look for pleasure: if the mechanic accomplishes the purpose of his labour, he expects an adequate and useful reward, and is satisfied when he receives it: he pretends not to praise, and fears not censure. But the professor of the fine arts aims at nobler and more elevated objects; and, if he succeeds, is entitled to higher and more flattering rewards. It is his to mingle pleasure with instruction—to strew flowers in the paths of science—to make virtue amiable and vice odious—to cheer the mind depressed by sorrow or misfortune—and to fit man for his duties, by exciting and invigorating his faculties—to restrain and moderate impetuous and destructive passions, and to awaken and cherish those social sympathies which constitute the bliss and charm of life. If he succeeds, riches are his; for we cheerfully pay for pleasure; but more is demanded, and more is readily bestowed: we lavish on him our admiration and applause. If, however, he is unequal to the undertaking (and how many are wholly incompetent?); if, instead of affording pleasure, he gives pain, or excites ridicule; if, instead of delighting, he disgusts, we turn from him with contempt, or bid him, by our disapprobation, descend from the elevated rank he has assumed, and seek, in useful obscurity, that station for which he is fitted by nature and education.

As the art of the player is strictly *imitative*, and as his chief purpose is to *please* by the justness of his imitation, he cannot think himself degraded if we rank him in the respectable society of poets, painters and musicians. They are candidates for similar honours, and are liable to a similar fate. Applause and fame alike attend their success: censure and contempt are alike the consequence of failure. On those who attain eminence by their skill in the fine arts, we willingly bestow applause, because their excellence depending on the mind rather than the body, is considered as a proof of genius. Praise and censure, however, are, and ought to be, distributed in different degrees, proportioned to the different degrees of merit and other circumstances of the candidates. The right of the spectator to judge of their respective claims, and to confer praise or blame according to his honest judgment, we never heard questioned. Indeed, he cannot withhold his decision, since he is appealed to by the parties themselves, who expect his opinion. When the poet, therefore, sends his productions into the world, through the press, or has them recited on the stage; when the painter exhibits a specimen of his

talents; when the musician produces his own composition, or executes that of another master; or when the player walks forth to hold, in his own person, the "mirror up to nature;" each instantly becomes the proper object of criticism. Each invites the world to a banquet, and not only expects a pecuniary recompense, but challenges scrutiny, and solicits praise: if the guest is satisfied, he freely testifies his approbation; but if the entertainment is mean, and disappoints his expectation, who will deny him the right of expressing his discontent.

There appears to us a greater similarity between painting and stage-playing than between any other of the liberal arts. The painter, taking the works of the historian or poet as the basis of the picture he designs to form, embodies the ideas of the author on his canvass. The player, in his own person, presents us a moving and speaking picture of what the poet had imagined and written. It is true he can give us only a single figure, whereas the painter combines various forms into groups, and expresses a complete action; but, on the other hand, the player, though he can present but one figure at one point of time, may vary the picture at every moment, and, if a master of his art, exhibit more in one hour than the painter can accomplish in years. We require from both artists a strict regard to nature: both must be acquainted with history and attentive to *costume;* and when either offends against truth or taste, though the ignorant may applaud, the judicious will turn from him with disgust.

Mediocrity is scarcely to be tolerated in the fine arts; and though, of necessity, many who attempt the utmost height of excellence can scarcely attain a station on the middle ground, and even there, or lower, may be made subservient to the lofty views of those above them; yet such must be content with obscurity, and should endeavour to supply, by industry, the deficiency of genius. If such an one, however, is ambitious of notice, and, as is generally the case, attributing his failure of success to envy, malice, or want of taste in the rest of mankind, will persevere, in despite of nature, to claim regard, every man will feel impelled to resist the importunate pretender, and send him back to that friendly gloom which concealed his defects.

"Who," asks Mr. C. "without deep regret, can view the unfeeling manner in which many spectators treat an unfortunate performer, who is straining every energy of body and mind to contribute to their gratification?" We certainly

should lament the want of feeling in our fellow men; but whether the feelings which would naturally be excited by the fruitless exertions of an unfortunate performer would gratify him by being expressed, is at least doubtful.

It is asserted (p. 10), that "those who frequent theatres must often witness, with indignation, instead of a well-earned tribute of applause, a hissing and hooting, the sole return for the most judicious performance in subordinate parts." We have been in the habit of visiting theatres from our youth, and have reason to believe the very reverse of this statement to be the truth. It often happens that unnatural rant procures a plaudit, but we never saw judicious performance hissed. We constantly observe the most cold and contemptible performance tolerated, the most false and disgusting acting borne, without those tokens of disapprobation which they richly merit. How often have we heard a fine sentiment applauded, when, by accident or dread necessity, it has been put in the mouth of a being who has no more title to the appellation of player, than to that of gentleman! If the passage comes forth from its unworthy receptacle so far whole as to be recognized, the audience, with one accord, applaud it: those who are ignorant of the poet applaud the words—those who recognize an old acquaintance, express their joy at his deliverance from such jeopardy. In the mean time the would-be-player takes the applause to himself, and the next day demands a higher salary, and *a better line of business;* when the just expression of the judgment of the audience should send him back to the counter, the shop-board, the plough, or the kitchen.

If the tribunal, to whom the author has voluntarily submitted his work for trial, approve, he is encouraged by the most lively applause; if they condemn, he hears the dreadful hiss. Though every poet who has been thus condemned has wished to appeal from the sentence, the world has generally confirmed it, and sanctioned the mode of trial. The author must either renounce his pretensions to dramatic excellence, or seek, by diligent study and exercise, to correct his faults, supply his deficiencies, and be better prepared for a second trial. We have known men of real genius and talents, but which were not the best fitted for the drama, after one trial, acquiesce in the judgment of the public, with a sense of justice and magnanimity of mind as honourable as it is rare. We see no reason for placing the player on higher ground than the poet. The latter has this advantage, however; he may console himself with the belief that posterity will render him that justice which

he thinks denied him by his cotemporaries. But the player has no such resource; the sentence pronounced is immediate and final. The public do not so often err as the vanity of authors and actors induces them to suppose. They have no motives to be unjust. It may sometimes happen that prejudices may be excited, and a party be formed to injure an actor, but more often, perhaps, to damn the play. Instances of this sort we have never witnessed in this country. To foreigners, the forbearance and good nature of an American audience are matter of surprize. But if they were to read Mr. C.'s pamphlet, they would think them a set of savages, who delighted in hooting and hissing a poor player to death.

A dramatic author of high repute, now living, himself a manager and proprietor of a theatre, speaks thus of the first tragic actor now in Great-Britain: "I mean no allusion, no epithet, to apply to him as a private individual; but I have an undoubted right to discuss his merits or demerits in his public capacities of manager and actor. His want of conduct, his neglect, his injustice, his oppression, his finesse, his person, his face, are in this point of view all open to my animadversion.

> "He is my goods, my chattels,
> My horse, my ox, my ass, my any thing."

Though we by no means would adopt the quotation with which this author concludes, we fully agree with him in the opinion, that he who offers himself as a spectacle, to give pleasure, is fairly subject to the animadversion of every spectator, and the more especially if he receives a pecuniary reward for so exhibiting himself. Let no one pretend to infer from this, that we would sanction insult or injustice towards the person who exhibits himself for his own and our gratification; or that we would withhold the merited and cheering plaudit which bursts forth as a token of pleasure and approbation. But those who come forward in any department of the fine arts, as they challenge applause, are liable to criticism and open to censure. The dramatic writer and the actor, perhaps, feel the expressions of disapprobation more keenly than the professors of other arts, as they are bestowed at the moment, on the spot, and in presence of multitudes; but their rewards are equally prompt, public, and pre-eminent.

In his address to newspaper critics, this author affects to consider the critic as the *enemy* of the actor, and the pointing out of a fault, *abuse*. This is too often the language of irritated and ignorant players; from such it might be expected,

L. of C.

but not from a professed author, or an enlightened actor. The author whose book is condemned by the reviewers, and the player who is told by the critic that he wants judgment in action, declamation, or taste in dress, are equally unwilling to admit the possibility of a failure in their attempts, and seek to hide so unpleasing a truth under the supposition of personal and malignant enmity. Immediate applause, or newspaper praise, is swallowed with avidity, as the effusions of an impartial spectator or delighted reader; but if a corrective is applied, it is always supposed to come from "an assassin who stabs in the dark." Solomon says, "he who hateth reproof is a fool."

The style of this light production is extremely affected and declamatory, and the sentiments it contains are weak and injudicious. It may be thought that we have bestowed much more attention upon it than it deserves. But we have said no more than what is due to the subject which Mr. C. has attempted to discuss. We deemed this a fit occasion to exhibit the questions he has examined in their true light, and to place the rights and pretensions of players and critics on their proper grounds. That of the player, like every other professor of the liberal arts, is arduous and perilous; but, if successful in gaining the height of his profession, his rewards are the most flattering that can be bestowed. We shall conclude with observing, that when we speak of poets, painters, musicians or players, in comparison with each other, we mean those who are masters in their several arts, and that a true and first-rate player is as much superior to a middling poet, as a good mechanic is to an indifferent player.

ART. XXIX. *An Examination of the President's Reply to the New-Haven Remonstrance, with an Appendix, containing the President's Inaugural Speech, the Remonstrance and Reply, together with a List of Removals from Office, and new Appointments made since the 4th March,* 1801. *By* Lucius Junius Brutus. 8vo. pp. 69. *New-York,* Hopkins, 1801.

THE President of the United States having thought proper to remove from his office Mr. Elizur Goodrich, Collector of the Customs in the Port of New-Haven, and to appoint in his place Mr. Samuel Bishop, the principal merchants and ship-owners in that city, to the number of eighty, addressed a

remonstrance to Mr. Jefferson, complaining of the dismissal of Mr. Goodrich, and of the appointment of Mr. Bishop. To this remonstrance the President returned an answer, which gave occasion to the above pamphlet. The author enters into a full examination of the inaugural speech of Mr. Jefferson, and of his reply to the merchants of New-Haven, compares the opinions and arguments contained in each, and animadverts on the principles and spirit of his administration. The constitutional powers of the President, in the appointment and removal of subordinate executive officers, are also amply discussed, and the evils of a doubtful or unauthorized exertion of them, forcibly described. As this production has been for some time before the public, we shall content ourselves with giving this brief statement of its nature and subject, without entering into any particular examination of its contents.

The author wields the pen of a political writer with much skill and ability. His style is clear, nervous, and correct, and well adapted to political controversy. Some few expressions might be selected as faulty or objectionable, but, on the whole, so well written a pamphlet has very rarely come before us.

ART. XXX. *A Reply to Lucius Junius Brutus's Examination of the President's Answer to the New-Haven Remonstrance; with an Appendix, containing the Number of Collectors, Naval-Officers, Surveyors, Supervisors, District Attornies, and Marshalls, in the United States, showing how many Incumbents are Republicans, and how many are Federalists. By* Leonidas. 8vo. pp. 62. *New-York.* Denniston & Cheetham. 1801.

THIS writer attacks the author of the pamphlet mentioned in the preceding article, with great zeal and confidence. After some introductory remarks of a general kind, he professes to describe the situation of the United States, under the late administration, and the advantages likely to accrue from the accession of the present. He then proceeds to canvass the reasoning of *Lucius Junius Brutus*, in which he totally differs from that writer. He asserts (p. 13.) the constitutional and unqualified right of the President to *remove from office at pleasure, and to fill up vacancies occasioned by such removal during the recess of the Senate*, and endeavours to maintain this right by appealing to the letter and spirit of the federal constitution, and to the history of our own government under

preceding administrations, and that of Great-Britain. Nay, he even contends, that the President is "bound, by those eternal principles which uphold the Constitution, to remove every federalist from those offices whose emoluments and consequent influence can possibly be applied to injure the commonwealth." With no less ardour *Leonidas* opposes the objections brought by his antagonist against the Reply of the President to the complaint of the New-Haven merchants, compared with the professions and principles of the Inaugural Speech.

As a writer, *Leonidas* is evidently inferior to his adversary. He discovers traits of a vivacious, but undisciplined mind, unused to the arts of composition. The faults of his style, therefore, as might be expected, are numerous, and would afford ample matter for verbal criticism, were we disposed to indulge it.

ART. XXXI. *The Examination of the President's Message at the opening of Congress, December 7, 1801; revised and corrected by the Author.* 8vo. pp. 127. *New-York.* 1802.

THE contents of this pamphlet originally appeared in 18 numbers, under the signature of LUCIUS CRASSUS, successively published in the *New-York Evening Post.* The public demand for these essays has been so great, that the editor has been induced to re-publish them in their present form. Having been, in their first shape, so extensively circulated and read, it would be useless for us either to analize them, or to swell our pages with extracts.

The nature, propriety and tendency of the measures recommended by the President of the United States to the consideration of Congress, are elaborately investigated, and all of them, in a greater or less degree, censured and condemned. The writer appears master of his subject, well acquainted with the principles of our constitution, and intimately conversant with the history of our national government, from its establishment to the present time.

On the questions presented in the President's Message, which have been canvassed for some months past by newspaper writers, and so fully discussed in both houses of Congress, he has said all, perhaps, that can be urged on the side he has taken, and this, in a manner, lucid, cogent, and impressive. By those who are attached to the same cause, his arguments will, no doubt, be thought weighty and conclusive; and even by their

adversaries they will be received with respect, though they may not produce conviction.

The most important topic of inquiry, and which constitutes the most valuable portion of this pamphlet, is that which relates to the judiciary system, and the constitutional powers of Congress as to the repeal of the law, and the abolition of the courts and judges appointed under it. This subject, though apparently exhausted by the ingenuity and eloquence of the leading speakers on both sides in Congress, is here placed in some new points of view, and illustrated by new arguments, drawn from reason and analogy. The conclusion of the author is, " that Congress may abolish courts, but the judges shall retain their offices, with the appurtenant emoluments;" a construction more qualified than that contended for by the congressional speakers in opposition to the repeal, but which, he thinks, will secure the *independent tenure of judicial office* intended by the constitution. On the justice of this conclusion, and the reasoning by which it is enforced, the public have, without doubt, already decided. Whatever difference of opinion there may be as to the soundness of his political doctrines, all, we are persuaded, will unite in allowing him the praise of a fine writer. Our task would cease to be so irksome and disgusting as it too often becomes by the crudities we are compelled to examine, were we more frequently regaled with so rich a repast as this author has here set before us.

ART. XXXII. *An Oration delivered to Old Cone Lodge, No. 9, in the Town of Salisbury. By* Robert Williams, *Secretary to the Grand Lodge of North-Carolina.* 8vo. pp. 8. *Raleigh (N. C.)* Hodge & Boylan. 1801.

IN this very brief address we discover nothing deserving of particular remark. The writer justly inculcates the principles of charity, truth and justice, as essential to the preservation and happiness of society; and exhorts his brethren to vindicate the purity and sincerity of their profession, by sacredly regarding the duties they owe to God, to themselves and their neighbours.

LITERARY JOURNAL.

INTELLIGENCE.

Gold and Platina found among the Mountains of St. Domingo. Extracted from a Manuscript of Mr. Giroud, lent to Dr. Mitchill by Dr. Stevens.

IN the year 1796, certain interior regions of St. Domingo were surveyed with a mineralogical eye by Mr. Giroud. He was appointed by the French government to travel and explore that colony, and made a report of his observations and discoveries to Mr. Roume, the agent of the republic for the time being in that island.

In one of his letters, dated at Cape-François, 6th July, 1796, he informs that at *Dondon* he had found platina mixed with the ferruginous sand which is so frequent in the ravines of that country. In the neighbourhood of *St. Raphael* he found another ferruginous sand mingled with particles of gold and platina. He sent specimens of these to the National Institute in France. In the districts of *Augusturo*, *las Sanjas*, *Savana Iglesia*, *Janico*, *Gausœve Hagua*, *Juana Huma*, and *la Cinènèga*, Mr. Giroud says nature has distributed gold with a liberal hand. It is of various forms (paillets, graines et grosses pepittes), and disseminated through a sandy grit, among rounded pebbles, and among an argillaceous and reddish earth abounding in iron. The mountains in these parts he considers as of the *ternary* or *tertian* order, and evidently formed from the ruins and crumbling of the higher and larger mountains of the *primitive* and *secondary* kinds. He is a Neptunian in theory, and believes they assumed their present form and structure at a time when the ocean still occupied the valley which extends from the *Bay of Semana*, on the east end of the island, quite across to *Daxabon* and *Monte-Christo*, between the two chains of the *Puerta Plata* and *Monte-Christo* on the north, and of *Cibao* on the south. In this extended valley calcareous substances and relics of the ocean are often found, and in these *tertian* mountains they are jumbled together with the granitical and primeval materials of the *ancient* mountains. This auriferous valley is cut, furrowed, and in many places divided by streams of water, the principal of

which are, *Rio-Verde*, *Hagua*, *Jaque*, *Yuna Huma*, *Janico*, *Cibao*, *Mao*, *Magna*, *Guaravin*, and *Hamina*. Gold is found hereabout over a surface of sixty square leagues, though much more abundantly in some places than in others. Every where the rivers, torrents, brooks and rills, wash down gold in the before mentioned forms, particularly after rains.

July 29th, 1797, Mr. Giroud viewed the two great chains of primitive mountains in St. Domingo. They are GRANITICAL. The one ridge to the south-east of St. Jago rises above the clouds, and is called Mount *Cibao*, or, as the inhabitants contract it, *Bao*. The other, which is also hidden by clouds, is called *Lomas Pelades* of the great *Sierriana*. From these many large rivers take their rise. Accompanied by two mountaineers, named Nicolas Fernandez and Pedro Rodrigeuz, he travelled to their summits; and he computes the elevation of the highest peak, that of *Antonsepo*, to be 1400 toises (8400 French feet) above the level of the ocean.

In the neighbourhood of *Cibao*, and at the foot of *Lomas Pelades*, there is an abundance of the granitoidal rock called Gneiss, the Saxum Metalliferum of the Saxons, and of the best informed miners. Among this are found great quantities of iron and copper pyrites. He believes some of it contains gold. These primitive mountains and their waters are, however, less abundant in gold than the countries and streams below.

He mentions the river *Cibao*, so called from the mountains of Cibao, as abounding in gold, and to the westward of them others as rich. In *Guaraguana* and *Acao* he says there is gold. He procured it himself by washing the sand, and found it frequently mixed with platina. The common washers of these golden sands hereabout always find grains of platina mingled with those of gold; and a ferruginous sand, attractible by the magnet, always accompanies them. They are particularly industrious to pick out and throw away the larger particles or grains of platina, because the goldsmiths of St. Jago will not buy their gold if it contains more than a certain quantity of platina. They know platina only by the names of *emerete* or *puntal*, and consider it as the pest of the virgin gold which is brought them to work, as they know no other method of separating the two metals than that of picking them out by hand.

Mr. Giroud concludes, that besides the vast quantities of *vegetable* produce which this fertile island can afford, it contains the sources of immense riches in its *mineral* department.

He thinks the latter can be attended to without the least interference with the former. The gathering of gold will not in the least prevent the cultivation of sugar and coffee; though he justly considers agriculture as preferable to mining.

Curious Facts concerning the Mode of Generation in the American Bear.

The singular departure from the common course of nature in the procreation of the opossum and the shark, are already known; but the manner in which the fœtus is matured by the female bear is not so generally understood. The following information was given to Mr. Franklin, Senator of the United States from North-Carolina, by the hunters. This animal hybernates, and, during the winter, retires to hollow trees and caverns, but does not become torpid, or sink into the sleeping state. Though found often in great numbers on the frontier settlements, and frequently killed and eaten by the inhabitants, there has never been an instance of a female killed in a pregnant condition, or big with young. The reason is, that almost immediately after conception, the fœtus, while shapeless, and resembling merely a small animated lump, is excluded from the womb. Thus born, and exposed to the open air, it has no connection with the teat like the opossum, nor with an egg like the shark. There is no trace of a placenta nor umbilical vessels. The growth of this rudiment of a future bear is supposed to be promoted by licking; and the saliva of the dam, or some other fluid from her mouth, appears to afford it nourishment. In the course of time, and under such management, the limbs and organs are evolved, the surface covered with hair, and the young cub at length rendered capable of attending its parent. Thus far the inquiries of the hunters have gone. The facts are so curious, that the subject is highly worthy of further investigation. And when the entire history of the process of generation in this animal shall be known, new light will be shed upon one of the most obscure parts of physiology. It is to be hoped that gentlemen whose opportunities are favourable to the prosecution of this inquiry, will furnish the learned world shortly with the whole of these mysterious phenomena.

New-York Vaccine Institution.

A number of the citizens of New-York, impressed with the importance of substituting the inoculation of the vaccine

disease for that of the small-pox, lately agreed to associate, and to contribute to the establishment of a public institution for that object. The design of this institution is three-fold; to extend the advantage of vaccine inoculation to the poor—to maintain a permanent supply of genuine matter for the use of the community—and to disseminate a knowledge of this inoculation among the physicians of the adjacent country. After public meetings, held by the contributors for the purpose, they formed and adopted a constitution suited to their design; and then proceeded, in pursuance of the constitution, to elect the officers of the institution, when the following gentlemen were elected:

Directors.

James Watson, Samuel Bowne,
John Keese, Robert Bowne,
Samuel L. Mitchill, Isaac Hicks,
Gilbert Aspinwall, William Moore,
Thomas Buckley, Samuel Miller,
Willet Seaman, Andrew Cock.
James Robertson,

Thomas Franklin, *Treasurer.*
Adrian Hegeman, *Secretary.*

The Directors made choice of the following gentlemen to perform the various duties assigned to their offices by the constitution.

James Watson, *Pesident.*
Gilbert Aspinwall, *Vice-President.*

Medical Board.

Valentine Seaman, Edward Miller,
Wright Post, Samuel Borrowe.

Samuel Scofield, *Resident Surgeon.*

The Directors having procured a suitable apartment, and made other necessary arrangements, the Medical Board have commenced inoculation, and are now proceeding in it with every prospect of carrying into effect the benevolent intentions of the founders of the institution.

At the last meeting of the contributors, the following resolution, moved by Mr. Samuel Bowne, was unanimously adopted, viz.

"Resolved, that in testimony of the high estimation in which this meeting of contributors hold the philanthropic and able exertions of EDWARD JENNER, M. D. F. R. S. &c. of London, and BENJAMIN WATERHOUSE, M. D. Professor of the Practice of Physic in the University of Cambridge, in Mas-

sachusetts, relative to the inoculation of the kine-pock, they are hereby appointed perpetual Honorary Directors of this institution."

Premium of the American Philosophical Society.

Mr. I. H. De Magellan, of London, having made a donation, to the American Philosophical Society, of *two hundred guineas*, to be vested in a permanent fund; that the interest arising therefrom may be disposed of, in awarding premiums to the authors of the best discoveries or most useful improvements relating to Navigation or to Natural Philosophy, mere Natural History only excepted. The following are the rules and conditions adopted by the society for the disposition of the proposed premiums, in conformity to the intention of the Donor, viz.

1. The candidate shall send his discovery, invention, or improvement, addressed to the President or one of the Vice-Presidents of the society, free of postage or other charges; and shall distinguish his performance by some motto, device or other signature, at his pleasure. Together with his discovery, invention or improvement, he shall also send a sealed letter, containing the same motto, device or signature, and subscribed with the real name and place of residence of the author.

2. Persons of any nation, sect, or denomination whatever, shall be admitted as candidates for this premium.

3. No discovery, invention or improvement shall be entitled to this premium, which hath been already published, or for which the author hath been publicly rewarded elsewhere.

4. The candidate shall communicate his discovery, invention or improvement, either in the English, French, German, or Latin language.

5. All such communications shall be publicly read or exhibited to the society, at some stated meeting, not less than one month previous to the day of adjudication, and shall at all times be open to the inspection of such members as shall desire it. But no member shall carry home with him the communication, description or model, except the officer to whom it shall be entrusted: nor shall such officer part with the same out of his custody, without a special order of the society for that purpose.

6. The society having previously referred the several communications, from candidates for the premium then depending, to the consideration of the twelve counsellors and other officers of the society, and having received their report thereon, shall,

at one of their stated meetings, in the month of December, annually, after the expiration of this current year (of the time and place, together with the particular occasion of which meeting, due notice shall be previously given, by public advertisement) proceed to the final adjudication of the said premium: and after due consideration had, a vote shall first be taken on this question, viz. "Whether any of the communications then under inspection be worthy of the proposed premium?" If this question be determined in the *negative*, the whole business shall be deferred till another year; but if in the *affirmative*, the society shall proceed to determine, by ballot, given by the members at large, the discovery, invention or improvement most useful and worthy: and that discovery, invention or improvement which shall be found to have a majority of concurring votes in its favour, shall be successful. And then, *and not till then*, the sealed letter accompanying the crowned performance shall be opened, and the name of the author announced as the person entitled to the said premium.

7. No member of the society who is a candidate for the premium then depending, or who hath not previously declared to the society, either by word or writing, that he has considered and weighed, according to the best of his judgment, the comparative merits of the several claims then under consideration, shall sit in judgment, or give his vote in awarding the said premium.

8. A full account of the crowned subject shall be published by the society as soon as may be after the adjudication, either in a separate publication, or in the next succeeding volume of their transactions, or in both.

9. The unsuccessful performances shall remain under consideration, and their authors be considered as candidates for the premium, for *five* years next succeeding the time of their presentment; except such performances as their authors may, in the mean time, think fit to withdraw: And the society shall annually publish an abstract of the titles, object or subject matter of the communications so under consideration, such only excepted as the society shall think not worthy of public notice.

10. The letters containing the names of authors whose performances shall be rejected, or which shall be found unsuccessful after a trial of five years, shall be burnt before the society without breaking the seals.

11. In case there should be a failure, in any year, of any communication worthy of the proposed premium, there will then be two premiums to be awarded in the next year. But

no accumulation of premiums shall entitle an author to more than one premium for any one discovery, invention, or improvement.

12. The premium shall consist of an oval plate of solid standard gold, of the value of *ten guineas.* On one side thereof shall be neatly engraved a short Latin motto suited to the occasion—together with these words, *The premium of* I. H. De Magellan, of *London, established in the year* 1786; and on the other side of the plate shall be engraved these words, *Awarded by the A. P. S. to* ——— ———, *for his discovery of* ——— ——— *A. D.* ——— ———, *President.* And the seal of the society shall be annexed to the said golden plate, by a ribbon passing through a small hole near the lower edge thereof.

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Medical Society of North-Carolina.

Raleigh, December 8.

On Tuesday last, the Medical Society of North-Carolina met in this city, and adjourned on Thursday evening. A considerable number of respectable Physicians from various parts of the State were present. At the opening of the society, the President delivered an Address, in which a cursory narration of the progress of the Science of Medicine from the earliest ages was given, and the most eligible means of promoting its utility in this country were pointed out. Various subjects of Medical Science were discussed.—An ingenious practical Treatise on general Dropsy was read by Dr. Wheaton, in which a successful method of treating that formidable disease was illustrated by relations of particular cases.

The society resolved on attempting to make a collection of such of the indigenous productions of the United States as may be found to have medical properties; a member of the society is appointed to superintend their cultivation and preserve them for a Botanic Garden, which they are taking measures to establish at the place of their annual meetings.

In consequence of the invitation given by the society at their last annual meeting, and the encouragement offered, several medicinal articles have been cultivated in different places in the State with advantage, but not in such quantities as to entitle any person to a premium. The partial success of these trials has induced the society to continue the offer of the premiums for the following year.

A committee of three members is appointed to devise and report to the next convention of the society, a plan for the

establishment of a Library, and the collection of a Museum of Anatomical Preparations, and such other Curiosities of Nature and Art as may be deemed worthy of preservation by the Physician or Naturalist.

Four members are appointed to present Dissertations to the next annual meeting.

The best mode of preventing and curing Infantile Diseases is given as a prize subject for the ensuing year.

The Officers elected for the year 1802 are Doctors John C. Osborn, President; Thomas Mitchell and Richard Fenner, Vice-Presidents; James Webb and John Claiborn, Censors; Calvin Jones, Corresponding Secretary; Starling Wheaton, Recording Secretary; and Cargil Massenburg, Treasurer.

American Philosophical Society.

Philosophical Hall, Philadelphia, Jan. 1, 1802.

The following persons were duly elected officers of the American Philosophical Society, held at Philadelphia:

Thomas Jefferson, *President.*

Robert Patterson,
Caspar Wistar,
Benjamin Smith Barton, } *Vice-Presidents.*

John Redman Coxe,
Adam Seybert,
Thomas C. James,
Joseph Clay, } *Secretaries.*

James Woodhouse,
John Bleakly,
B. H. Latrobe,
Samuel Duffield, } *Counsellors for three years.*

C. W. Peale,
John R. Smith,
Robert Leslie, } *Curators.*

John Vaughan, *Treasurer.*

Agricultural Society of the State of New-York.

The Agricultural Society of the State of New-York held their annual meeting at Albany, on Wednesday evening, the 17th February, 1802, for the election of officers, when the following gentlemen were chosen:

Robert R. Livingston, Esq. *President.*
Ezra L'Hommedieu, Esq. *Vice-President.*
John Tayler, Esq. *Treasurer.*

Dr. Samuel L. Mitchill, } *Secretaries.*
Dr. Benjamin De Witt, }

John Lansing, jun. Esq.
Stephen Van Rensselaer, Esq.
Simeon De Witt, Esq. } *Committee of Publication.*
Stephen Lush, Esq.
Rev. John B. Johnson,

Medical Society of South-Carolina.

At the anniversary meeting of the Medical Society, held in Charleston, on the 24th of December, 1801, at the house of Mr. W. P. Young, the following gentlemen were elected officers for the ensuing year:

Samuel Wilson, M. D. *President.*
James Moultrie, M. D. *Vice-President.*
Edward D. Smith, M. D. *Secretary.*
Dr. Joseph H. Ramsay, *Treasurer.*

Literary Fair.

Mathew Carey, bookseller, of Philadelphia, published an address, in December last, to the printers and booksellers throughout the United States, proposing the establishment of a *Literary Fair*, on a similar plan to those of *Frankfort* and *Leipsic*. This proposal has been so well received, that the first fair will be held in the city of New-York on the first day of June next.

Fulton's new Diving Boat.

Mr. Fulton, an American now in France, distinguished for his knowledge of hydraulics, and the different branches of mechanical philosophy, has made a very ingenious discovery in the art of submarine navigation. The following account is given by St. Aubin, a member of the Tribunate, in the Journal of Commerce of the 20th January:

"I have," says he, "just been to inspect the plan and section of a *nautilus*, or diving boat, invented by Mr. Fulton, similar to that with which he lately made his curious and interesting experiments at Havre and Brest.

"The diving boat, in the construction of which he is now employed, will be capacious enough to contain eight men, and provisions enough for twenty days, and will be of sufficient strength and power to enable him to plunge 100 feet under water if necessary. He has contrived a reservoir for air, which will enable eight men to remain under water for eight

hours. When the boat is above water, it has two sails, and looks just like a common boat. When she is to dive, the masts and sails are struck.

"In making his experiments at Havre, Mr. Fulton not only remained a whole hour under water with three of his companions, but held his boat parallel to the horizon at any given depth. He proved that the compass points as correctly under water as on the surface, and that, while under water, the boat made way at the rate of half a league an hour, by means contrived for that purpose.

"It is not twenty years since all Europe was astonished at the first ascension of men in balloons: perhaps, in a few years, they will not be less surprized to see a flotilla of diving boats, which, on a given signal, shall, to avoid the pursuit of an enemy, plunge under water, and rise again several leagues from the place where they descended!

"The invention of balloons has hitherto been of no advantage, because no means have been found to direct their course. But if such means could be discovered, what would become of camps, cannon, fortresses, and the whole art of war?

"But if we have not succeeded in steering the balloon, and even were it impossible to attain that object, the case is different with the diving boat, which can be conducted under water in the same manner as upon the surface. It has the advantage of sailing like a common boat, and also of diving when it is pursued. With these qualities it is fit for carrying secret orders—to succour a blockaded port—and to examine the force and position of an enemy in their own harbours. These are, sure, evident benefits, which the diving boat at present promises. But who can see all the consequences of this discovery, for the improvements of which it is susceptible? Mr. Fulton has already added to his boat a machine, by means of which he blew up a large boat in the port of Brest; and if, by future experiments, the same effect could be produced on frigates or ships of the line, what will become of maritime wars, and where will sailors be found to man ships of war, when it is a physical certainty that they may every moment be blown into the air by means of a diving boat, against which no human foresight can guard them."

Premium of the Philadelphia Medical Society.

At a stated meeting of the Philadelphia Medical Society, held on Saturday, 20th February, 1802, it was resolved that a pre-

mium of *one hundred dollars*, or a gold medal of that value, be offered for the best *natural* and *medical* history of any one of the United States of America.

The candidate is requested particularly to attend to the nature of the soil commonly prevalent in any part of the country he may describe, to the effects produced by clearing the land in the climate, and the consequent influence of these causes on diseases; to the state of longevity in the inhabitants; to the flowering of certain herbs and trees as connected with agricultural operations; and, lastly, to the mineral and saline productions of the earth. He will be much aided in his inquiries by attending to the hints and subjects of observation contained in "Count Berchtald's Essay to direct and extend the Inquiries of Patriotic Travellers," and in "Dr. Lettsom's Naturalist's and Traveller's Companion."

To each dissertation a motto must be prefixed, and the same motto must be put on the back of a sealed letter, containing the name of the author. All dissertations except that to which the prize shall be adjudged, will be returned to any person that may be directed, together with the letter which contains the author's name, unopened. The dissertations must be delivered free of expense to the President, on or before the last Saturday in February, 1804.

BENJAMIN RUSH, *President.*
HEDGE THOMPSON, *Sec. pro tem.*

Destruction of Princeton College.

On Saturday, the 6th of March, about one o'clock P. M. a fire was discovered issuing from the belfry of the College. A strong wind blew, which soon spread the flames over the whole roof, and in about six hours the whole edifice was reduced to ruins.

By this calamitous event the college library, consisting of about three thousand volumes, and the effects of many of the students, were entirely consumed. The philosophical apparatus was happily saved.

The trustees having resolved to rebuild the college as soon as adequate funds could be obtained for the purpose, published an address, soliciting the aid of the opulent and liberal of all ranks and denominations in the United States, in restoring this once flourishing and useful institution.

The prospect of subscriptions is so flattering, that we understand measures will be immediately taken to commence rebuilding, so that the edifice may be expected in a condition to receive the students by the next winter.

In the mean time the trustees have ordered that the ensuing session shall commence on the third of May next. And they request of all parents or guardians who have children or wards at the college, that they direct them to return as punctually as possible. The unhappy accident by which the building of the college has been consumed, will render it necessary that the students should take boarding in the town during the summer season, where it may be obtained, in good families, at three dollars to three dollars and three-fourths of a dollar a week. The usual charges for room rent, the use of the library and contingences, will now be omitted, so that the whole of the *necessary* expense of the college, for the session beginning on the third of May and ending on the last Wednesday of September, will be as follows:

For board, the highest,	80 dols.	
Tuition,	10	67 cts.
Washerwoman,	6	50
Lights uncertain, but not more than	2	
Total,	99	17

Proper apartments are provided for lectures and recitations; and the philosophical apparatus being preserved almost entire from the late conflagration, the course of experiments will still continue to be exhibited as usual.

New Publications, and Works preparing for the Press.

A "DISSERTATION on the Freedom of Navigation and Maritime Commerce, and such Rights of States relative thereto as are founded on the Law of Nations," &c. by *William Barton*, M. A. Member of the American Philosophical Society, and of the Economical Society of Valencia, in Spain, has been lately published, in one volume octavo, by *J. Conrad* & Co. of Philadelphia, from the press of *H. Maxwell*.

Noah Webster, jun. Esq. has just published, in one octavo volume, "Miscellaneous Papers on Political and Commercial Subjects: viz. an Address to the President of the United States on the Subject of his Administration:—an Essay on the Rights of Neutral Nations, in Vindication of the Principles asserted by the Northern Powers of Europe:—a Letter on the

Value and Importance of the American Commerce to Great-Britain:—and a Sketch of the History and present State of Banks and Insurance Companies in the United States."

"A History of Land Titles," in one volume octavo, by *James Sullivan*, author of the History of Maine, has lately been published in Boston.

A new and improved edition of Dr. *Morse*'s Universal Geography is expected to appear in the month of May.

Dr. *Edward Stevens* is now compiling a "Natural History of St. Domingo." The materials for this work were chiefly collected during his residence in that island, as Consul-General of the United States. It will contain descriptions of more than 1600 of the indigenous plants, and be embellished with engravings of many of the more remarkable species, done by the best artists in America. It will likewise comprehend the medical and economical qualities and applications of the plants described; the whole to be comprised in one large folio volume.

Professor *Barton*, of Philadelphia, has published a second edition of his "Collections for an Essay towards a Materia Medica of the United States."

Dr. *Caldwell*'s "Oration on the Causes of the Difference, in Point of Frequency and Force, between the Endemic Diseases of the United States of America and those of the Countries of Europe, delivered before the Philadelphia Medical Society," has been lately published.

An "Annual Oration, delivered before the Chemical Society of Philadelphia," by Dr. *Felix Pascalis*, has just issued from the press.

"The Female Monitor, consisting of a Series of Letters to married Women on Nursing and the Management of Children, by the late *Hugh Smith*, M. D." has been republished by Dr. *John Vaughan*, of Wilmington (Delaware), with notes, and a compendium of the diseases of infants.

Dr. *Waterhouse*, of Cambridge (Mass.), is preparing for publication, "Practical Observations on the Local Appearance, Symptoms and Mode of treating the Kine-Pock."

It is said that an accurate and elegant piece of Biography, "The Life of Washington," will shortly be presented to the world, compiled by a person eminent for his erudition, who is in possession of the materials, collected by *Washington* himself.—It is hoped that all subscriptions to the daily proposals for lives of this great man will be deferred until this authentic work shall appear.

"The Chemical Pocket-Book, or Memoranda Chemica, arranged in a Compendium of Chemistry, with Tables, &c." by *James Parkinson*, of London, has been reprinted by *James Humphreys*, of Philadelphia; with an Appendix, containing the principal objections to the antiphlogistic system of chemistry, by Dr. *Woodhouse*, Professor of Chemistry in the University of Pennsylvania, &c. This will be found an excellent and convenient manual for the students of chemistry.

"The great Importance of a Religious Life considered," by the late *William Melmoth*, Esq. of Lincoln's-Inn, London, has been republished from the twenty-third London edition, in one vol. 12mo. by *Samuel Bishop;* to which are added, "Prefatory Observations on the Credibility of the Christian Religion, and a few Concise Observations on Prayer." Printed by *Cottom & Stewart*, Alexandria (Virginia.)

Russell & Cutler, of Boston, have issued proposals for publishing, in one volume 12mo. "The Letters of Shacoolen, the Hindu Philosopher," which originally appeared in the Commercial Advertiser of New-York.

"A Compendium of the Anatomy of the Human Body, intended principally for the Use of Students," by *Andrew Fyfe*, to be comprised in two duodecimo volumes, is now reprinting by *James Humphreys.*

Mathew Carey, of Philadelphia, has issued proposals for publishing by subscription, "The American Traveller's Pocket Companion," shewing the true course of the main road from New-York to the City of Washington, with descriptions of the places through which it passes, and the running off or intersections of the cross roads, illustrated with an account of such remarkable circumstances, objects or occurrences, as are interesting or entertaining to travellers of every description—from actual survey.—The work to be elegantly engraved on a scale of about one mile to an inch. It will be comprised in one volume octavo, to be delivered in May next. Should the undertaking meet with suitable encouragement, it is designed to extend the plan from one extremity of the United States to the other.

Mathew Carey has in the press, Brown's Quarto Bible, with Concordance, and thirty Engravings, in which numerous errors are corrected by a comparison of the most accurate and celebrated editions of the Bible in Europe and America. He has also published "Priestley's Chart of Biography," adapted to the use of students in colleges and universities; and the "Historical Preceptor," for the use of schools.

Samuel Campbell, bookseller of this city, has just published, in two handsome volumes, "The Poetical Works of *Hector Macneill*, Esq."—The poems of this Scottish Bard have been universally read and admired in Great-Britain.

"Lyrical Ballads," with other Poems, by *W. Wordsworth*, have been reprinted by *James Humphreys*, of Philadelphia, two volumes 12mo. in one. This edition contains a long, but ingenious and well written preface, by the author, in which he examines the properties of prose and verse, and which should be read by all who wish to enter into the spirit of these ballads. Mr. W. endeavours to maintain, that between poetry and prose there neither is nor can be any essential difference; that some of the most interesting parts of the best poems will be found to be strictly the language of prose when prose is well written; and he incidentally remarks, that much confusion has been introduced into criticism by contra-distinguishing poetry and prose instead of poetry and science, for that the strict antithesis is prose and metre. He considers the music of verse, arising from a certain artificial arrangement of words, and coincidence of sounds, as the only quality necessary to form the contrast and antithesis of prose. To prove the truth of this theory by his own practice, the author excludes from his poetry all personifications of abstract ideas, as not making any regular or natural part of the language of men, and for the same reason he employs very little of what is called *poetic diction*, consisting of phrases and figures of speech, which, he observes, "from father to son have been regarded as the common inheritance of poets." This is indeed stripping poetry at once of half her plumage, and condemning her to skim along the vale, without daring to soar into the sublime regions of fancy. The laws prescribed by Mr. W. may suit a particular species of poetry like his own, but we apprehend that their authority will not be acknowledged by the lovers of poetry in general.

As the author has drawn his subjects from the incidents of common life, for the purpose of tracing in them without ostentation the primary laws of our nature, he has chosen a style imitative of the language of ordinary conversation in the middle classes of society. On this plan we think he has made some successful experiments. As the poems are almost entirely free from intricacy of thought or expression, they may be read by the simplest swain without difficulty. Some of them appear to us too humble both in style and sentiment to be generally interesting. Many of the pieces display a lively sensibility to the beauties of rural scenery; but they are particularly distinguished

for the delicate and affecting manner of pourtraying the sensations of the mind, when agitated, as the author expresses it, by the great and simple affections of our nature;—of nature, however, as she appears in the walks of low and rustic life.

Joseph Groff, printer and bookseller of Philadelphia, proposes to print by subscription, the whole works of *Alexander Pope*, Esq. in eight volumes 12mo. from the latest London edition, 1797; with notes and illustrations, by *Joseph Wharton*, D. D. and others: and, from the same edition, the poetical works of *Pope*, in five vols. 12mo.

The first volume of *Mavor's* "Historical Account of the most celebrated Voyages, Travels and Discoveries, from the Time of Columbus to the present Period," has just been published by *Samuel F. Bradford*, of Philadelphia, and *T. & J. Swords*, of New-York. It is a very handsome specimen of the work, and will do credit to the publishers. They propose to issue one volume monthly until the whole is completed. The plan of Dr. *Mavor* is "to concentrate the wide range of publications on this subject into a narrow compass, and to deliver them in uniform diction and connected narrative—to preserve every circumstance that can amuse or instruct—to entertain the fancy and to humanize the heart." The scheme appears judicious, since it must be admitted that most of the books of voyages and travels contain many things which can be of use only to those engaged in particular pursuits, many things unfit for the eyes of youth, and other things too trifling to be read or remembered. A succinct but comprehensive narrative, like the present, is best calculated for young persons, and for general use.

Should Dr. Mavor not continue his publication beyond the 20th volume, we suggest to the American publishers the propriety of employing a suitable person to prepare a *supplement*, which should contain those *recent* voyages and travels not contained in Dr. Mavor's work. Among others, we name those of *Vaillant*, *Peyrouse*, *Labillardiere*, *Mears*, *Van Couver*, *Colnett*, *Bartolomeo*, *Van Braam's Account of the Dutch Embassy to China*, *Missionary Voyage*, *Stavorinus*, *Brown*, *Park*, *Sonnini*, *Mackenzie*, *Barrow*, *Southey*, *Croke*, *Townson*, *Stolberg*, *Chantreu*, *Syme's Embassy to Ava*, *Turner's Embassy to Thibet*.

The Rev. Dr. *Dwight*, President of Yale College in Connecticut, was requested by the General Association of that State, which met in 1797, to revise Dr. *Watt's* Imitation of the Psalms of David, so as to accommodate them to the state of the

American churches; and also to supply the deficiency of those Psalms which Dr. Watts had omitted.—This service was accordingly undertaken by President *Dwight*, and has been since completed; and the revised work several months ago issued from the press of *Hudson & Goodwin*, of Hartford. This publication, made under the sanction of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, and the General Association of Connecticut, will, we take for granted, be received with respect by the American churches.

A neat 12mo. volume, under the following title, has lately issued from the press of *W. W. Woodward*, of Philadelphia, viz. " Surprising Accounts of the Revival of Religion, in the United States of America, in different parts of the world, and among different denominations of christians. With a number of interesting occurrences of Divine Providence. Collected by the publisher." This is an interesting compilation.

In a short time will be published by *George F. Hopkins*, of this city, " Voyages from Montreal, on the river St. Lawrence, through the Continent of America, to the Frozen and Pacific Oceans, in the years 1789 and 1793. With a preliminary account of the rise, progress, and present state of the Fur Trade of that country. Illustrated with a Map. By *Alexander Mackenzie*, Esq." From the London quarto edition.

T. Morgan, of Philadelphia, has this work also in the press.

Thomas Moore, of Maryland, has lately published a work under the following title, " The great Error of American Agriculture exposed; and Hints for Improvement suggested."

The Rev. *James Hall*, Missionary from the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, a few months ago, laid before the public, " A Brief History of the Mississippi Territory; to which is prefixed, a Summary View of the Country between the settlements on Cumberland River, and the Territory," &c.

Brown & Stansbury have in the press, " Memoirs of the Life of Gen. Bonaparte," in one volume duodecimo. They will publish in a few days, " Rural Tales," by *Robert Bloomfield*, author of the Farmer's Boy.

The Rev. Mr. *Miller*'s Sermon, delivered before the New-York Missionary Society, at their annual meeting, April 6, 1802, is in the press of *T. & J. Swords*, and will be published in a few days.

In page 27, line 28, for " judicial" read *juridical*.